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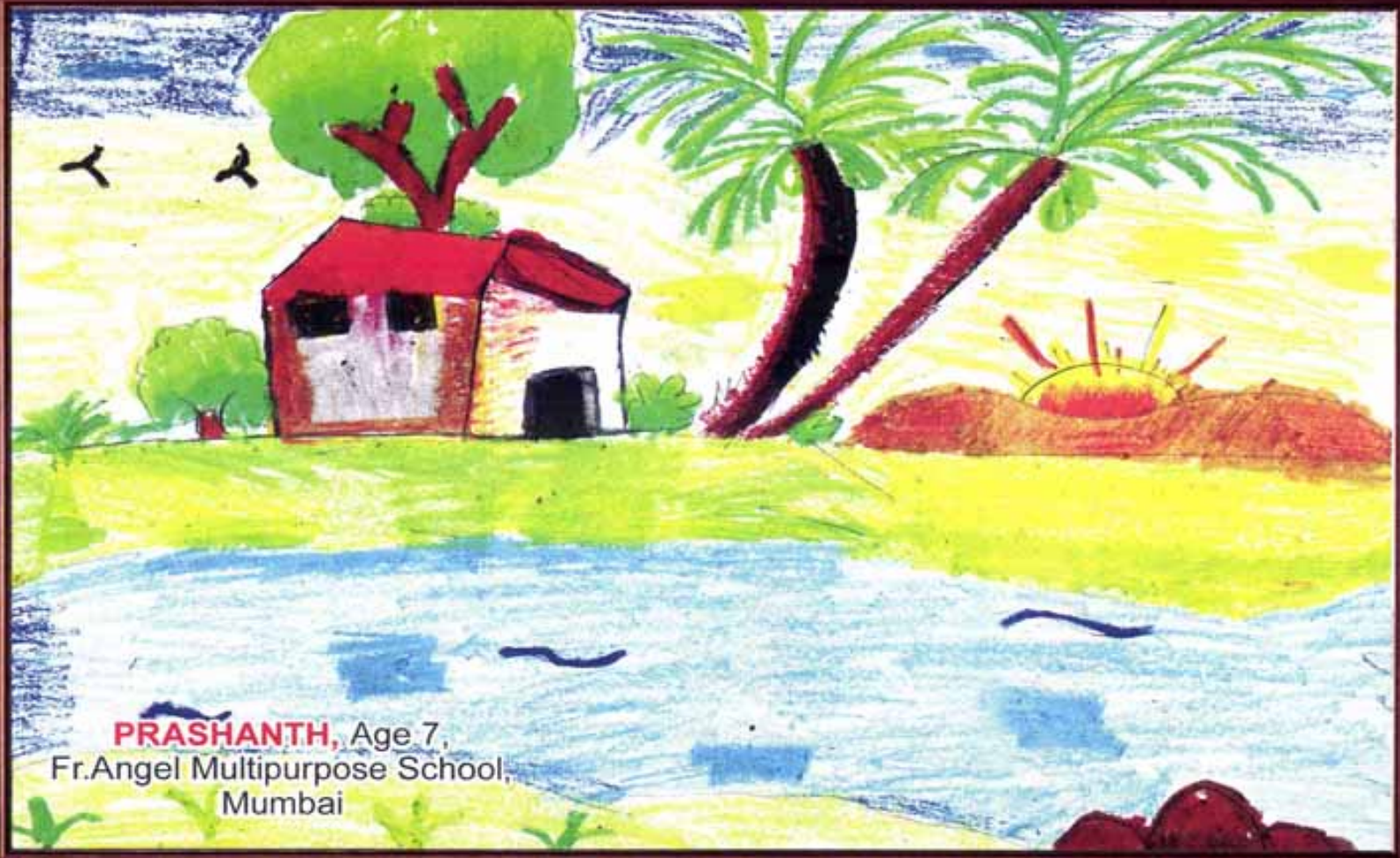
GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children



PRASHANTH, Age 7,
Fr.Angel Multipurpose School,
Mumbai

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

December 2008 Vol.XXI, No.6

KALKI GROUP
HOUSE of QUALITY

Of all created things the loveliest
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

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THE Magazine for Children

YES, WE CAN!

Dear Reader,

"Yes, we can !" said Obama and enthused his party men to achieve a change. The Republican government has been replaced by Democrats. An African - American is President of U.S.A.!

The time has now come for us in India to say "yes, we can" in reply to many questions:

Can we win the war against terrorism?

Yes, we can!

Can we live in peace and harmony with migrant workers from other regions of India?

Yes, we can!

Can we see other religions and castes as our own and give due respect to people belonging to them?

Yes, we can!

Can we root out corruption and nepotism from our country!

Yes, we can!

Can we overcome the economic crisis now affecting us rather seriously?

Yes, we can!

Can all of us feel that we are Indians first and last and be proud of the fact?

Yes, we can!

If Anand can become world chess champion once again; if India can beat Australia 2-0 in the four test series; if our scientists can succeed in sending Chandrayaan to the moon and bring glory to India,

Can we not achieve peace and prosperity in this land of ours?

Yes we can!

– Editor

Merry Christmas!

The day when Jesus was born,
In the midst of night in a humble barn
At a small cottage in Bethlehem
A star guided people to see him.

Infant Jesus became a great spiritual personality,
And started his preaching of love called Christianity
The Messiah had come to redeem mankind
His miracles restored sight to the blind.

The day of his birth was twenty fifth December,
It is carnival time from the start of November.
Christmas trees are seen in everyone's house,
Children long to meet the omnipresent Santa Claus

Stars are a sign of preparations in place
Happiness and kindness beam on every face
The day is celebrated as Christmas,
Let's all praise the virtues of Christ Jesus

- R. Vishal Jagannath,
Std.VIII,
Siva Sivani Public School,
Kirlampudi,
Vishakapatnam

Home-made Chocolate!

Here's an easy recipe for Christmas:

You need:

Cocoa powder - 1 spoon
Milk powder - 1 cup
Powdered sugar – 1 cup

Christmas Gallery

The earliest written record of a Christmas tree being used as part of the celebrations, lies in the Cathedral of Strasbourg, Germany. It dates back to 1539.

Fir, spruce, and pine are the trees conventionally used as Christmas trees.

Though the custom became common in Germany as early as the 16th century, it remained confined to the Upper Rhineland for a long time.

In the USA, Christmas tree farming is extensive..there are over 21,904 Christmas tree farms there.

(source : internet)

Snippets and Illustration by
Alistair Lewis,
Std.VII,
St. Joseph Boys' High School,
Bengalooru

Cashew nuts – 6
Ghee – 1 spoon

Method:

1) Mix milk powder well with cocoa powder and keep aside.

2) Heat a thick pan and add one cup of sugar and five ml of water and stir well till it dissolves.

3) Add the milk powder-cocoa powder mix to the sugar solution and stir well till it thickens.

4) Grease a tray with ghee.

5) Pour out the cooked mixture onto the greased plate, scatter pieces of broken cashew over it and allow to cool.

6) Gently cut into pieces of desired size and leave the tray in the fridge for about an hour.

Tastes yummy!

- S.Vijetha, Std.IX,
Santhinikethan Trust School,
Bengalooru

How to Lose

Dear Grandma,

I always feel like eating something when I'm bored. If I see yummy food like chips, cake, samosa etc., I feel like eating them at once. But I'm also eager to lose weight and become slim. Please help!

– Ramya Bhagirathi,
Bengalooru

Dear Ramya,

Obesity is caused in two ways. If a person's thyroid gland is not functioning properly, she or he will become fat. This problem has to be tackled by a specialist doctor. The other kind of obesity is a result of overeating and lack of exercise. If your intake of calories is more than what you burn up, then excess fat starts accumulating causing obesity.

Regular exercise will burn up a lot of calories. Walking briskly - so that you start sweating after 10 or 15 minutes - for half an hour or forty minutes will work wonders. It is the cheapest and easiest form of exercise. But, be sure to build up the minutes gradually over a period of 3-4 weeks. Look at yourself in the mirror especially your profile. You'll hate the bulges. Make up your mind to become slim. Whenever you see deep

fried, sweet or fatty food, think of the bulging figure you saw in the mirror. Imagine how nice and beautiful you'd look if you are slim. Whenever you feel hungry, take food low in calories and high in fibre content like boiled green vegetables, fleshy fruits etc. As for cakes and samosas, well, it's all a matter of mind over body. Exercise and meditation will help you to control your mind. Boredom will vanish if your mind and body are active.

Weight and Become Slim?

Of late I'm not sitting next to my best friend, since I have to read for exams and I have no time for chitchat. Taking advantage of this situation, two girls have come between me and my best friend, who doesn't care for me nowadays. What should I do?

– N.U.Nidhi, Mysore

Dear Nidhi,

Before you decided not to sit next to your best friend, you should have informed her about your decision and the reason for the same. If you had done this, she, as your best friend would have respected your feelings and would have waited for you to come back to her. But you have tried damage-control as an after thought, when you found your best friend moving away from you! The only way out now, is to open your heart to her. Tell her you feel sorry for not being frank with her earlier, and how miserable you feel now, having lost her friendship. She's sure to respond favourably to your honest plea.

I want to reduce my weight. How can I achieve it?

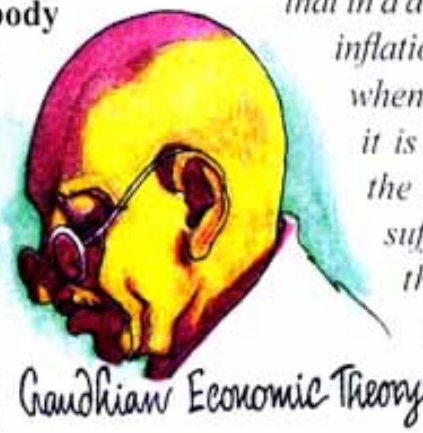
– Smrithi, Bengalooru

I am fat and everybody at school tease me. How can I become thin?

– M.H.Sanju, Mysore

Dear Smrithi and Sanju,

Please refer to the answer I have given to Ramya Bhagirathi.



I read in one of your replies that printing of currency notes should be equivalent to the country's gold reserve. But this rule has been discarded since 1965. Is this the root cause of inflation?

– Meenakshi, Mumbai

Dear Meenakshi,

It is one of the causes of inflation if not the root cause. There are as many economic theories as economists in this world! One of the theories is that in a developing economy inflation is inevitable. But when prices sky-rocket, it is only the poor and the middle class who suffer. I for one believe that the Gandhian economic theory is best suited for our country. Try to find out more about it if you are interested.

My mother died recently due to a heart problem. Please advise me so that I can overcome my grief and study well.

– Karthick Srinivasan, Tirunelveli

Dear Karthick,

I am so sorry for you and on behalf of all GOKULAM readers I express deep sympathy. All of us are with you during this period of trial. The best way to over come your grief is to try and forget the last days of your mother and think of her as she was much earlier. Remember how she brought you up from childhood days to teen age, helping you is so many ways with loving care. Recall her laughter and endearing kisses. Above all, don't forget, you have a duty towards her and that is to study well and come up in life.

Love,

Grandmaworm

HOW DARE YOU EAT A TIGER!

Story : **Virasikamani** Pictures : **Pillai**

On the way back.

Guruji, How did you find out about the peanuts?

Oh, you simpleton! Did you not see the peanut shells under his cot?

Pooh! Is that all that takes to diagnose! I too shall start offering treatment.

Next day...

Guruji, let me go and attend to the patient.

Doctor! My father is ill. Can you come, please?

O.K. But be attentive.

Munna hurried along.

Ah! A good opportunity to prove my intelligence.

Take this twice a day. You'll soon be better.

The next day...

Are you not feeling better today?

You have disobeyed me; stubborn, man!

What?

Yes, how dare you kill a tiger and eat it!

What! T..ti.. tiger?

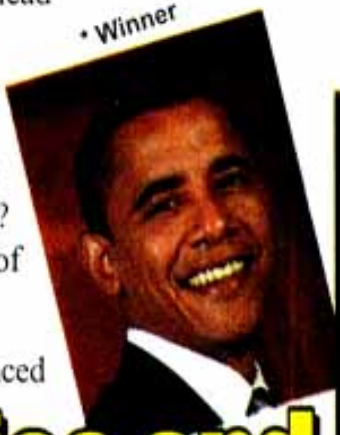
Yes, ofcourse! There's tiger skin under your cot!

Some medicine man! Get out you hoax!

Victories and Vicious Acts!

The past thirty days have been a period of tremendous excitement though tinged with sorrow. The sad news was that terrorists struck again, this time in Assam, killing 75 people! Investigations are on and leaders have, as usual condemned the massacre. But when is this senseless killing going to stop? And, how are we going to win the war against terrorism? There is no answer from any of our leaders.

Elections have been announced for Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Chattisgarh. The Common man is hoping that the elections will be peaceful; for, violence has no place in a democracy. The losers in an election are also winners since the role of the opposition is as important as the rule of the majority party. So, the victorious should act with humility and the losers with magnanimity, Take for example John Mc cain. He accepted defeat even before the final results were announced and congratulated Obama. He further said: "The American people have spoken. Whatever our differences, we are fellow Americans. It is natural to feel some disappointment, but tomorrow we must move beyond it!"



* Winner

* Loser

* Honoured

Obama's victory was historical because he was an African American. But his run away victory was not because he was black.

People were unhappy with president Bush's sabre-rattling policies. The economic slump added to the woes of the ruling Republican Party. This is not to belittle the glorious victory that Obama achieved with his clarion call for a "change."

* Rousing farewell

* Over takes Lara

* 300 wickets

Chandrayaan was successfully launched and it is now orbiting the moon, sending vital data to scientists about the lunar surface. It is a great achievement for our scientists and a proud moment for India. But already questions are being asked as to the cost of the project and whether it was all a waste! When similar questions were put to John F.Kennedy, he pointed out that the money was not spent on the moon but in the United States, for the enrichment of science and that the positive cascading effects will be felt by Americans in their day to day life pretty soon.

India's 2 - o convincing victory over Australia in the four test series will be remembered for more reasons than the team work put in by our players, all of whom deserve praise. First, Tendulkar overtook Brian Lara's 12,000 runs in Test matches. Then, Harbajan became the first Indian off-spinner to claim 300 test wickets. Ganguly retired from world class cricket and was given a rousing farewell. Kumble too announced his retirement and was honoured by his comrades on field.

North Indians who had come to Mumbai to write the Railway Board examinations were attacked by Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) activists. They feel that North Indian migrant workers are depriving job opportunities for Maharashtrains. It's a senseless presumption, since Maharashtrains too go all over India and are employed in many states. The agitation is against the unity of India and the fundamental rights guaranteed in our consti- tution. Raj Thackery, Leader of M.N.S. was arrested and later released on bail.

* Hate politics

STARS RISE; LOSERS WIN!

Should all children participate in competitions? - Gokulam readers air their views in this, their favourite column!

All children must certainly participate in competitions. This will improve their various skills like reading, writing, communication and speaking.

- M.S.Gowri Sankari, Std. VIII, Good Sheperd M.H.S.S., Marthandam.

Shyness, inferiority complex, stage fear and diffidence will vanish and boldness, self-confidence, team spirit and will-power will develop in children who enter competitions.

- B.Pragadeesh, Std.VIII, Sri SankaraVidyashramam M.H.S.S., Chennai; Jayashree Raman, Age 18, SIES, Nerul, Navi Mumbai; A.Aswin Vayiravan, Std.XI, T.V.S.M.H.S.S, Madurai.

Only when one participates in a competition, his killer instincts are invoked and he gives his best to what he does. This experience makes us realize our own strength and use it in other required areas of life. Also, many stars, champions and reliable citizens of tomorrow emerge only from competitions.

- K.Goutham, Std.XII, D.A.V.H.S.S, Chennai; Pramod, Std.XII,D.A.V Public School, Neredmet, A.P.

Schools would do well to make it compulsory for children to partici-

pate in at least half a dozen competitions in a year. Only then will we really know what we are good at and where we stand with regard to our various skills. The experience of participating and losing helps us to rectify mistakes as well and work

better for the future competitions.

- Swathi.C, Std. VIII, P.S.B.B.S.S.School, Chennai; Athipan Anbumani, Std. V, Kalaimagal Kalvi Nilayam, Erode; Supraja, Std.XI, C.E.O.A, Madurai; Puranjan Dev, Std. V, Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium School, Bhubaneswar.

Competitions are conducted mainly for our participation and we must participate, at least for the joy of participation, if not for winning. They are golden opportunities.

- Keerthana, Std.IX, R.S.K.H.S.S, Trichy; Mira Shankar, Std.V, Indian School, Sohar, Oman.

Education alone is not enough to make a complete person. To come out with flying colours in life, you need that 'extra something' that

makes you shine as a better person.

- Nanditha Ravinder, St.XI, Leo M.H.S.S, Chennai; Pranav Kolady, Second grade, Challenger School, San Jose, USA; Maanasa Natarajan, Std.V, Jnanodaya School, Bengalooru.

Give the choice of the competition to the participants and don't force them to be a part of all that is happening. This will help us to iden-

tify and develop our interests.

- Ekta Gautam Dharamshi, Std.VIII, The Brigade School, Bengalooru.

All children must take part in competitions because it will brighten up their skills. When we compete with our own friends, we also learn to lose with a smile on our face. As

the saying goes, 'cheerful losers are the winners'!

- S.T. Sudharshan, Secunderabad; P.Tharini, Std. X, Ponniah Ramajayam Public School; Varun Adishankar, Std. XI, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Hyderabad; S.Suganthan, Std.IX, D.A.V. BHEL School, Ranipet.

It is competitions that make students creative. Success in competitions also gives us a status.

- N.S.Jeyanthi Priya, Std.XI, St.Ignatius Convent, Palayamkottai

Competitions are a must because each and every child learns to tackle a difficult situation by participating in them. This is important for the development of our personality.

- Sneha Antony, Std.X, K.V., Dhrangadhra, Gujarat; Ajay Ashok, Std.X, St.Michael's Academy, Chennai.

Creativity in a child is kindled by competitions. In my childhood days, I have participated in a number of competitions and it has helped me a lot.

- A.Sindhu, Std.VII, Green Park MHSS, Namakkal.

Children should not be forced by parents and teachers to participate in competitions. Rather, they should be allowed to take part in them according to their interests and ambitions.

- Vishishtha Upul, Std. VI, D.A.V. Public School, Ranchi

All of us have some God-given gifts and it is our duty to make use of them and improve on them. Com-

petitions are a good opportunity for doing this and we must make use of these opportunities.

- Anish Antony, Std.VI, K.V., Drangadhra, Gujarat; Jagasree, Std. VI, Holy Angels ISC School, Trivandrum.

When children participate in competitions, they may start to concentrate less on their studies and this would put pressure on them. We can therefore participate in the competitions if we are able to balance both.

- Sudarshan Gopal, Std. V, Apeejay School, New Delhi; Dipanwita Bhowmik, Std.VIII, Nava Nalanda, Kolkata.

The talents and capacities of all children cannot be the same. Putting them all together in one competition is not advisable. Age limits and groups must be prescribed. All children need not participate in all competitions. Nor does it mean that those who win in the competitions are great achievers.

- Bhargavi.G, Std.XII, Holy Angels' Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School, Chennai; S.Lakshna, Std.VII, Akilandeswari Vidyalaya, Trichy.

Sometimes, even parents and teachers come to know of a child's talent only when he/she participates in a competition and does well. It helps all of us to come together to improve on that talent.

- Umaira Khan, Std. X, Touheed English School, Gangolli, Karnataka; Srividya.N, Std. IX, Hindu Senior Secondary School, Chennai; R.Aiswarya, Std.IX, Adarsh Vidyalaya, Chennai.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH :

Is it right for children to argue with their parents, teachers and other elders?

Send us your views by 25.12.2008. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non-residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

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CHUCK THE JUNK!

*Here is a table provided by reader **Sharanya**, which offers interesting alternatives to the usual junk food we love to eat. Let's try to replace our favourites with healthier alternatives at least fifty percent of the time!*

To make fruit ice, take juicy fruits like oranges, sweet lime, mango, pine-apple, water melon etc, and cut into small pieces. Place the fruit pieces in

FAST FOOD

Potatowafers, banana chips	
Biscuits	
Instant noodles	
Patties, samosa, pizza, burger, etc	
Soft drinks	
Commercial ice creams	

kulfi moulds and freeze them in their own juice.

For fruity curd, combine one cup of thick curd with any fruit puree, a spoon of sugar or honey to taste and a few drops of vanilla essence. Blend all these in a mixer and pour into kulfi moulds or cups and leave in the freezer.

Wish you a happy and healthy snacking!

- R.Sharanya, Std.VII, Mahila and Nutan English High School, Margao, Goa.

HEALTHIER ALTERNATIVE

Roasted channa, roasted nuts and dry fruitsmixture, corn or wheat flakes and puffed rice or wheat.

Kakras (dry chappathis with various flavours), Pop corn, roasted corn, whole grain bread toast.

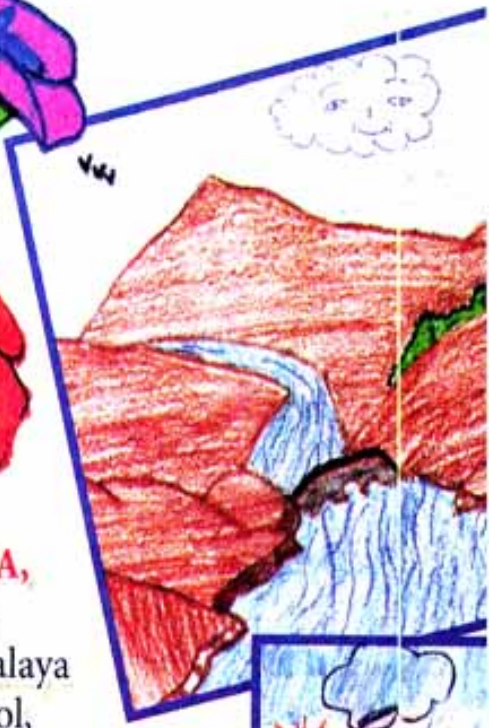
Plain noodles with veggies, spaghetti or pasta with fresh tomato sauce or chutney.

Sandwiches, upma, idli, dosa, cooked sprout or sprouted lentil and grated vegetable as salad.

Fresh fruit juice, green leaf tea, lassi, milk shake with fruits or nuts, tender coconut water, fresh lime and soda.

Sweetened curd, fruit yoghurt, fruit ice, curd lollies, home-made ice cream.

B.PURNIMA,
Std. VI 'B',
Vedavalli Vidyalaya
Sr. Sec. School,
Walajapet



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Std. VI,
Veer Bhagat Singh, Mumbai

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Std. VI 'A', P. S. Sr. Sec. School,
Mylapore

R. ANANYA, U.K.G.,
Shri Vidya Mandir
Education Society, Bengalooru

HARSHINI,
3rd Grade
North Hill ELEH,
Michigan

SURYA SUNDARARAJAN,
Std. V, Challenger School, California

A Merry Circle

Name : **D.R. Amoolya**
Age : 14
Address : No.4216, 9th Cross, 17th Main, Vijayanagar, II Stage, Mysore - 570 017
Hobbies : Listening to music, watching TV, singing, dancing, reading novels, playing computer games.

Name : **C.Sneha**
Age : 17
Address : Plot No.489, Vivekananda Colony, Kukatpally, Hyderabad, Andhrapradesh - 500 072
Hobbies : Reading magazines, surfing net, making friends, playing shuttle, exploring CDs.

Name : **P.Akshaya**
Age : 14
Address : 20/18, Gandhi Nagar Market, Near Badri Narayana Temple, Bellary - 583103
Hobbies : Dancing, listening to music, reading novels, collecting Harry Potter articles, chatting with friends.

Name : **M.S.Gowri Shankar,**
Age : 13
Address : Gowrigiri Nikethan, H.No.19/40, Edatheru, Kuzhithurai, Kanyakumari Dt - 629 163
Hobbies : Reading stories, listening to music, singing, watching TV.

Name : **C.Rajaji**
Age : 17
Address : 3, AMC Street, Sekkalai,

Karaikudi - 630 002.

Hobbies : Collecting stamps, coins, FDCs, chatting, listening to music.

Name :

K.V.Lilabati Mokanta

Age : 14

Address : Sai Dham, B-2, Arpa Bridge Road, Near JJ Hospital, Torwa, Bilaspur, Chattisgarh

Hobbies : Drawing, sketching, reading magazines, collecting amazing facts, singing.

Name : **C.Swathi**

Age : 13

Address : No.44, Suresh Nagar Main Road, Janaki Nagar, Valasaravakkam, Chennai - 87.

Hobbies : Reading Harry Potter novels, playing table tennis, Collecting coins, drawing.

Name : **Sivani Chander**

Age : 9

Address : 31, Godavari Apartments, 167, Lake View Road, Chennai - 33

Hobbies : Reading story books, painting, writing, surfing the net.

Name :

K.S.Reshma

Age : 14

Address : Kunnathully House, Elavally South, Trissur, Kerala

Hobbies : Reading, painting, listening to music, singing.

Name :

C.Vinotheeba

Age : 12

Address : B2/F23, Bloemendhal Flats, Colombo - 13, Srilanka.

Hobbies : Reading books, playing the piano and collecting interesting informations.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Here is how the New Year greeting sounds in various Indian languages:

Hindhi : Nav Varsh ki Shubkamna!

Bengali : Subho Nababarsho!

Kannada : Hosha Varshada Shubaashyagalu!

Sindhi : Nain Saal Joon Wadhyoon!

Tamil : Iniya Puthaandu Nalvazhthukkal!

Telugu : Nuthana Samvathsara Shubhakankshalu!

Urdu : Naya Soal Mubarik!

Nepali : Nawa Barsha ko Shuvakamna!

Punjabi : Navi sal di Mubarak!

Gujarathi/Parsi : Saal Mubarak

Malayalam : Nava Varsha Aasamsakal!

Bhojpuri : Naya Saal Mubarak Ho!

Assamese : Rongaali Bihu Xubhessa Lobo!

Marathi : Nootan Varashnimit Hardik Shubhecha!

- Darshana N. Dawda, Std.XI, Mulund College of Commerce, Dombivili.

Write down the answers indicated by the clues. Rearrange the letters in the circled squares, to zero-in on the final answer.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you!

ZERO-IN 5

1. Mother of Jesus Christ

○			

2. It is customary to decorate this for Christmas

○		○	

3. This famous apostle of Jesus died in Chennai

○				○	

4. The smallest country in the world

		○				○

5. Jesus was crucified on this

			○	

6. The holy book of Christians

				○

Answer :
There is an old and a new one too.

Fill in the form on the reverse of this page and send in your entries to
GOKULAM
before 25.12.'08

- G.S.S.

Zero-In-3

Congratulations! Here are the winners of Zero-In - 3 (October 2008) and the solutions as well. The results of Zero In - 4 will be published in the January 2009 issue.

1. Joseph Rajesh, Std.VIII, St. Patricks Anglo Indian HSS, Chennai

2. U.M.Vidhya Sree, Std.IV, Sri Vidhya Mandir Matriculation School, Tharamamangalam, Salem

3. B.Pragadesh, Std.VIII, Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Mat. HSS., Chennai

4. V. Mahalakshmi, Std.X, American High School, Bengalooru

5. G.P. Mahitha, Std.IX, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Ashok Nagar, Chennai

1. PORBANDER
2. DANDI
3. SEVAGRAM
4. PUTLIBAI
5. BIRLAHOUSE
6. LEOTOLSTOY
7. HERAM

Answer :

SABARMATI

Zero-In - 5 Entry Form

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class : .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

..... Pin .....

Signature : .....

*Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

● Strictly for school going children ● Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. ● Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only ● No xerox copies.

Last Date : 25.12.2008

A Man of Patience!

After spending my vacation in Chennai last summer, my mother and I caught a video bus back to Vellore. On boarding it, I saw an empty seat at the rear and rushed towards it with my bag. Accidentally, my bag fell on a young man who was seated in one of the seats. He held a cup of coffee in his hand and the bag upset the beverage onto his shirt and also on to a book he held in the other hand. I was shocked and guilty over what I had done. I expected the young man to shout at me in annoyance. But he was calm. He just got out of the bus, went up to a tap, washed the coffee off and came back into the bus before it left. Even after this, I thought he would give me angry glares. But, no! He just kept cool and went back to his seat. I wondered at this man of patience and really want to be like him.

- J.Vishnu, Std.X,
Shiksha Kendra M.H.S.S.,
Vellore

A Forty Five Minute Study!

As I got into the bus and bought a ticket to Vasant Vihar, I noticed an empty seat just before the foot board. I had not taken my usual daily paper to read and started looking around at the co-passengers. I saw a young girl in a seat ahead of me. She was staring blankly at a note-book in her hand. The book had 'physics' inscribed on it neatly. At one corner, the name of a boy had been written in

a decorative hand and then scored off. She was clad in jeans and tunic – of a style that had come into vogue only recently and was a hit with college students. The accessories she wore, told me that she came from a rich family. When the bus crossed Thane and went through a slum area, we could see from out of the window, two poor boys sharing a piece of bread. The girl ahead of me had compassion on her face and I could see that she was sensitive to the pain and suffering of others. I could see that she was an avid follower of fashions, when at the Mall of Manequins, she gazed lovingly at the display of latest fashions. This girl got off at the same stop that I did and I realized that each human being has different characteristics and is different by nature. It was interesting to study a person and try to guess her personality.

- Aparna Lakshmi Dorai, Age:16, Vani Vidhyalaya Jr. College, Thane

On a Stormy Day!

As I set out to the market with my father, it began to rain heavily. Luckily, Dad had an umbrella and I huddled under it along with him.. When we reached the market, my father asked me to wait outside with the umbrella and went in to make the purchase. As I clutched the open umbrella and gazed at the street, a strong wind started to blow and my umbrella just flew away! I ran after it and got it back after a small chase and scramble. By then I was thoroughly wet. In the meanwhile, my father had come out of the shop and was worried to see that I was not there. When I got back, he was upset that I was

drenched, but quite relieved to see me. The funniest thing is that, as we both walked back home, the rain and wind grew stronger and snatched away the umbrella from Dad's hand! We were both drenched now! On getting home my brother and I laughed over the incident and I wrote a two-line poem:

Rain rain! Let's play the game
This day will never come again!

- Priya Bhat.M, Std.IV, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tripunithura

The Crocs and I!

I was only two and a half years old then. We lived in Mount Abu and were going on a picnic to a sanctuary. At the sanctuary, there was a large pond with crocodiles in it. My mom went near the pond to take photographs of the crocs. But she could not spot any of them. I was playing near the pond and started running down a slope which led into the pond. Just then a crocodile came out of the water and opened its mouth wide. My mother was excited that it was posing for a picture! But my father realized that I could trip and fall into the pond by accident if I did not stop running. I would then become a meal to the crocs! He rushed up to me and stopped me from hurtling into the pond. It was quite an adventurous experience.

- P.Keertana, Std.X, K.V.2, Chennai.

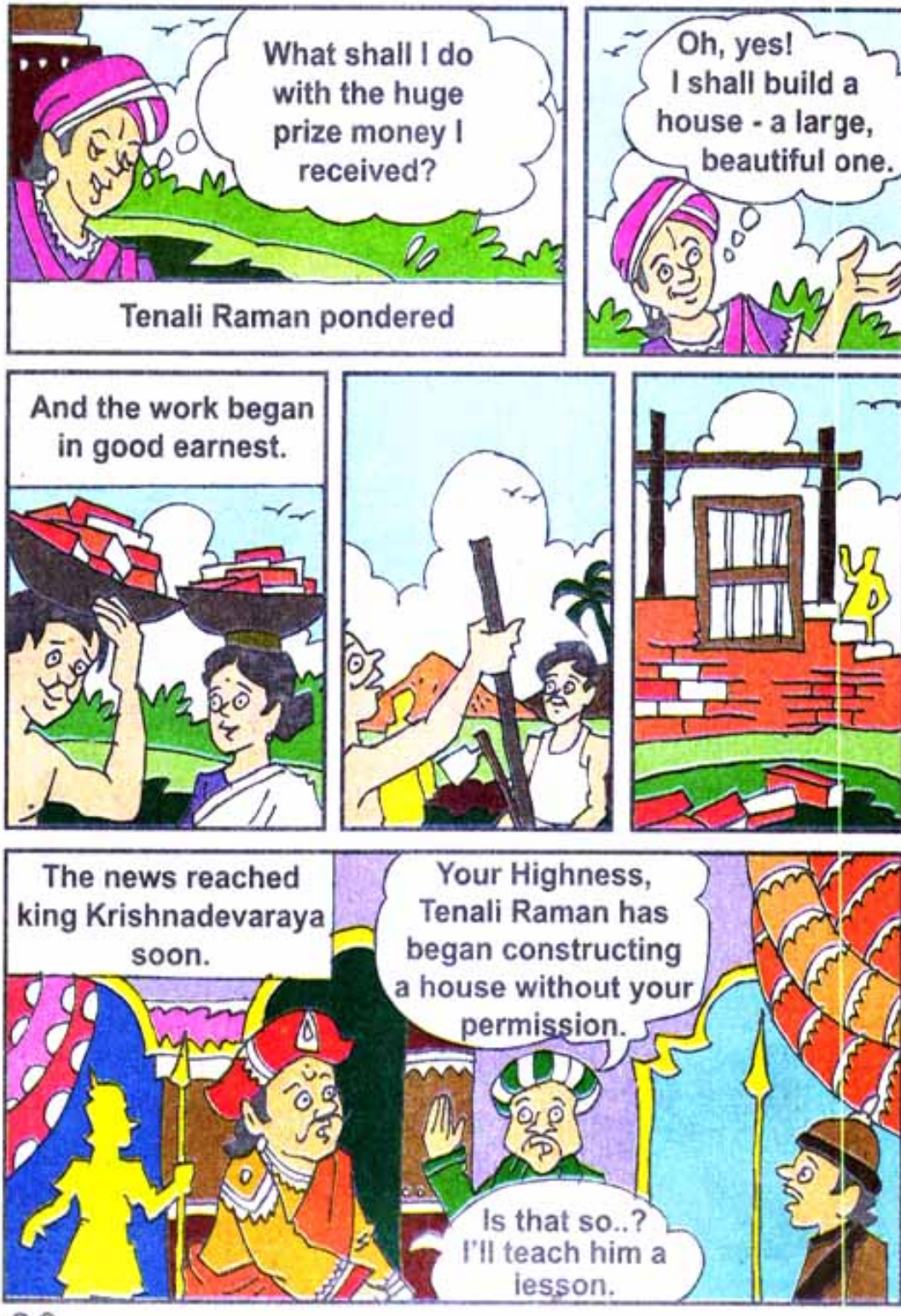
Prize Surprise!

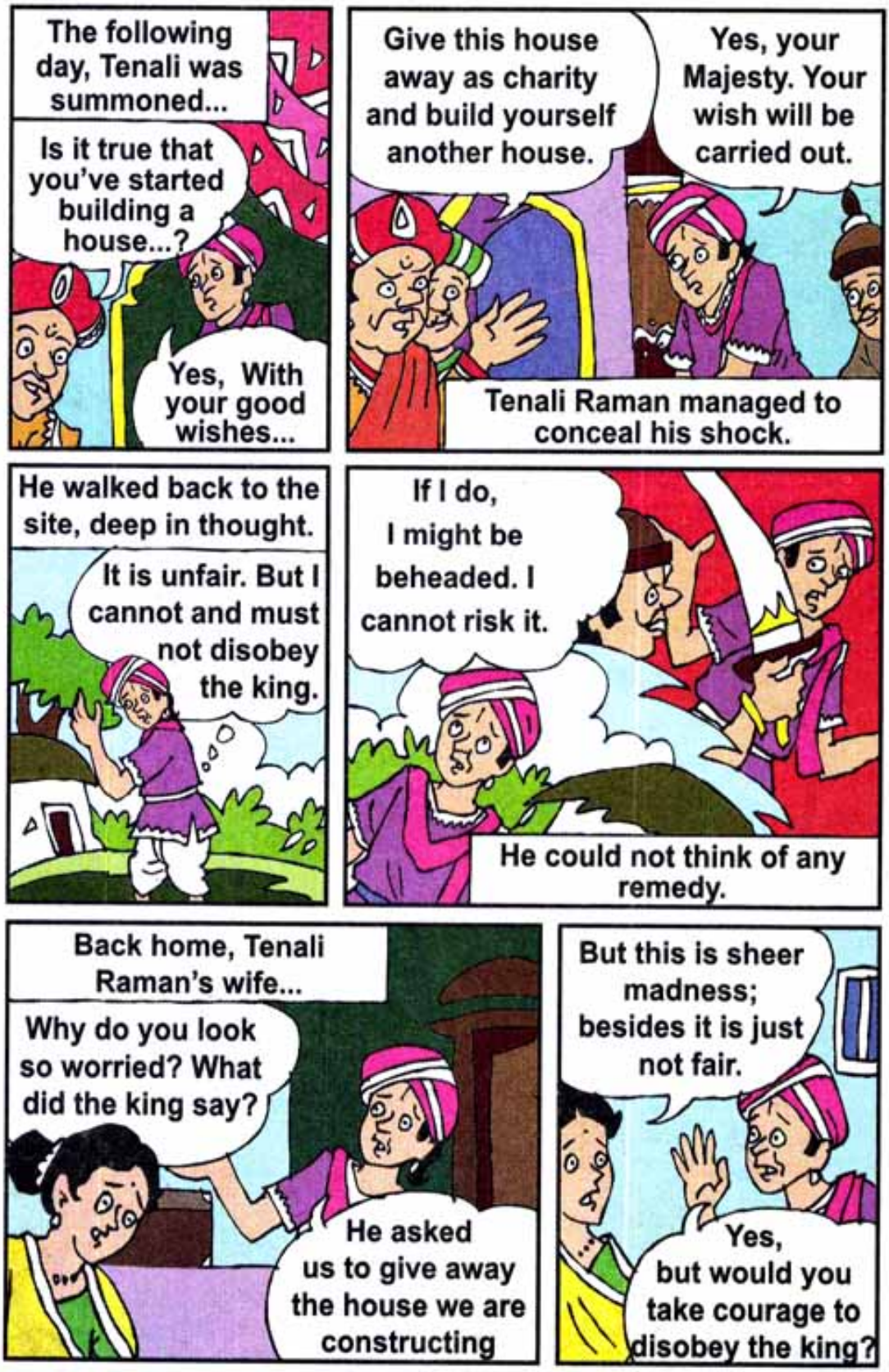
My English teacher always made me write essays for the Commonwealth Essay Writing Competition. I have sent entries to it since I was in the sixth standard. The first time I was asked to write, I did so happily and completed the essay in a day. But in the subsequent years I began to regret that I was being forced to write. I just wrote because my teacher wanted me to and not out of my own interest or for my joy. One morning, my teacher read out my name in the assembly and announced that I had won a prize in the Commonwealth Competition! I could not believe my ears. But it was true! I then realized how important it is to do things in good earnest. Not winning a competition is no disqualification and participation itself is a merit.

- R.Varsha, Std.X, K.V., Secunderabad.

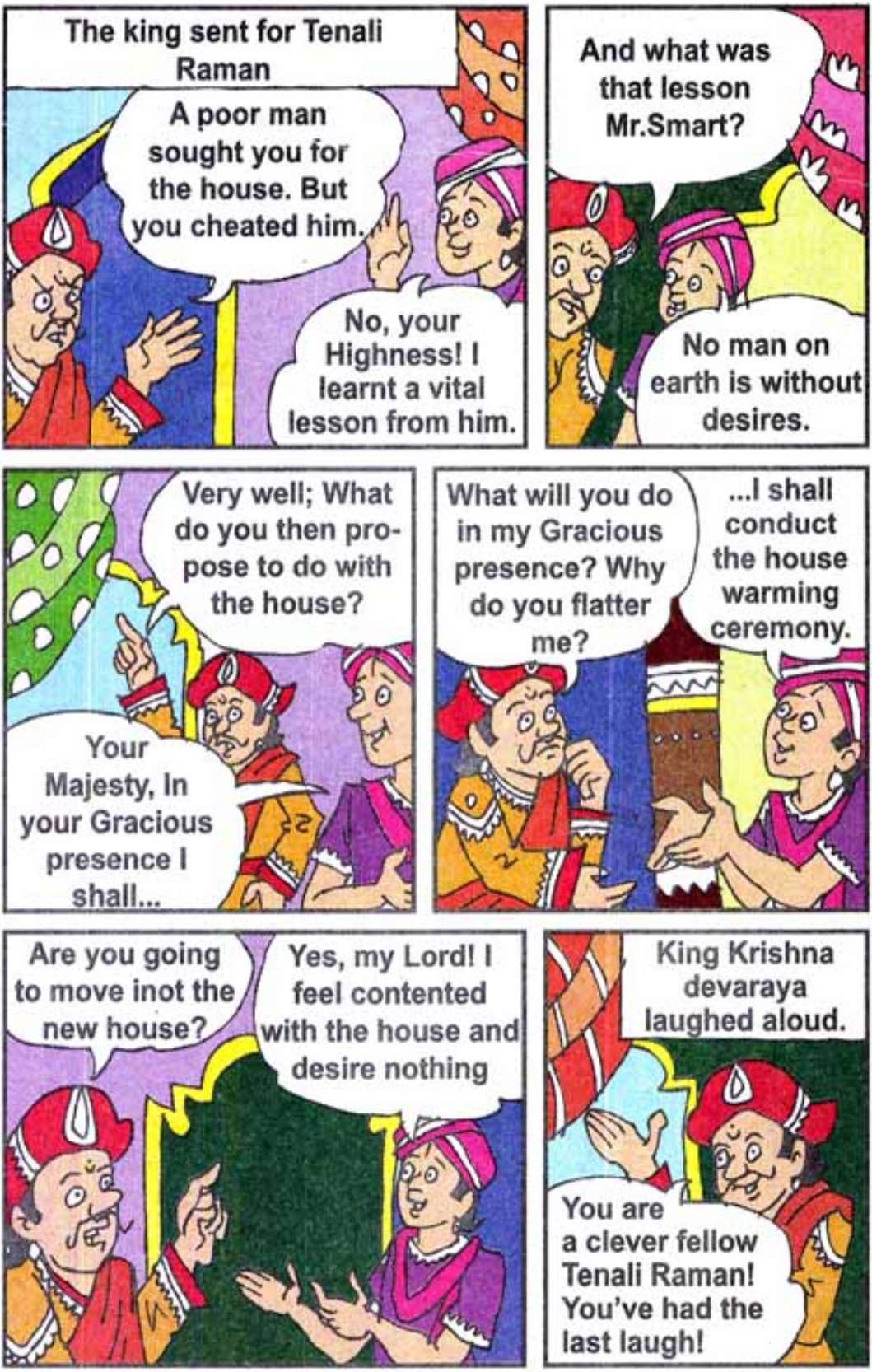
THE LAST LAUGH
- A Tenali Tale

Story : A.Selvi, Std VII,
Bharath Montessori M.H.S.S.,Ilanchi
Pictures : Ramki




The following day, Tenali was summoned...
Is it true that you've started building a house...?
Yes, With your good wishes...
Give this house away as charity and build yourself another house.
Yes, your Majesty. Your wish will be carried out.
Tenali Raman managed to conceal his shock.
He walked back to the site, deep in thought.
It is unfair. But I cannot and must not disobey the king.
If I do, I might be beheaded. I cannot risk it.
He could not think of any remedy.
Back home, Tenali Raman's wife...
Why do you look so worried? What did the king say?
He asked us to give away the house we are constructing
But this is sheer madness; besides it is just not fair.
Yes, but would you take courage to disobey the king?

No, but I cannot part with the house that we have built either.
Hush! Don't be loud. I will deal with this situation.
That night, while all slept...
Yes... That would be a fantastic idea.
Tenali Raman completed constructing the house and fixed a board.
FREE! This house will be given free to a man without desires!
People flocked eagerly to see the house.
What! What do you mean - a man without desires?
One fine day, at the house...
Sir, I am a very poor man. Please give me this house.
Why should I..?
Because I am a contented man and have no desires.
But, then why do you desire this house...?
The poor man was foxed and took to his heels!


The king sent for Tenali Raman
A poor man sought you for the house. But you cheated him.
No, your Highness! I learnt a vital lesson from him.
And what was that lesson Mr.Smart?
No man on earth is without desires.
Very well; What do you then propose to do with the house?
Your Majesty, In your Gracious presence I shall...
What will you do in my Gracious presence? Why do you flatter me?
...I shall conduct the house warming ceremony.
Are you going to move inot the new house?
Yes, my Lord! I feel contented with the house and desire nothing
King Krishna devaraya laughed aloud.
You are a clever fellow Tenali Raman! You've had the last laugh!

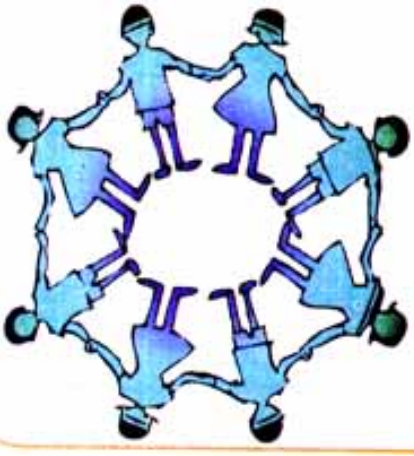
Imagination

I would love to be a clown
And fly over the town
I would traverse the skies
And watch the Earth as it lies
I would fly to magic lands
Beyond our seas and sands
Angels, fairies, kings and queens
Would create many lovely scenes
Witches, wizards would spread evil
But I wouldn't be afraid of the devil!
Tinkerbell, my pixie friend
To protect me would
backwards bend!
I would even meet Peter Pan,
Captain Hook and his evil band!
At computer class I could
learn animation
But to traverse the skies I'd need
imagination!

- Shradhaa, Std.VI, Primrose School, Pondicherry

Sing Along

Sing sing sing, you can sing
You can sing, we can sing, we
all can sing together.
Call your brothers,



My Best Friend!

When I read Gokulam,
my best friend,
The stories of joy and
fun never end!
I wait with gleeful anticipation
for each issue,
And in between oh,
Gokulam, how I miss you!

Tell me why the sky is blue?
Is it because to yourself you're true?
Not really, I must say
You are a liar, stay out of my way!

Night and day you follow me
You're not the one I want to be

Call your sisters
Call your friends too
To sing along
A merry song

Everyone's happy to
sing a song
But if you don't like singing,
never mind,
Just keep smiling,
Smiling all the while
Be happy, be merry,
Keep smiling all day
Your cares will fly away!

- Meghna Murali, Std.I,
Holy Angels' ISC School,
Nanthancode, Trivandrum

I read you eagerly through
night and through day,
My precious Gokulams
I'll never give away!

- Bhavani Sankaralingam,
IV Grade, Indian Fields
Elementary School,Dayton,
New Jersey, USA

The Dark Side of Me!

I am never happy when I am with you
You make me do things I never
wish to do.

When I look at you I feel so sad
Your walk and your talk make me mad!
I hate that malicious smile on your face
To get away from you I hasten my pace.

I am going to fight you till you run away
And never after will I feel dismay
I will bring you down, some day I will
And hurl you from atop a hill

'Cause you are twisted from head to toe;
You're the devil within me
– my deadliest foe!

- Anju V. Nambiar, Std.XI,
Ladyhill Victoria High School,
Mangalore

Why the Bat Comes Out Only at Night?

Long long ago, when the earth was still new, the sun and the bat were good friends.

One day, Sun's son Shiny, became sick, very sick! Sun was worried. He thought for a while and then told himself, "I will ask Bat what I can do to cure Shiny. He will surely have some medicine to cure my child."

Bat, of course, had the medicine and was only too happy to give it to his good friend. The medicine was nothing but the leaves of a particular tree that grew in his back yard. He plucked a few of the healing leaves and brought them over to Sun, who took the leaves over to his home in the sky. He spread the leaves around the bed in which Shiny lay and tucked the child in. Soon, the child became well.

The next day, Bat saw sun come up over the horizon, all blazing and happy! "My son has recovered, thanks to you!" cried out Sun. Bat rejoiced with him and accompanied his friend on the day's journey across the sky.

As chance would have it, a few days later, Bat's little son Darkie became very sick. This time, the healing leaves in Bat's back yard failed to help. So Bat went to his good friend Sun.

"Can you find some medicine to help my sick child?" he asked.

"I have some at home that could help him" said Sun. "But, I have come all the way from the earth's horizon and am so tired. I can't go all the way back again for the medicines. Wait until I rise again tomorrow and I will bring you the medicines."

"Oh, my friend", cried Bat. "My child is very ill and will surely die if he is not given the medicines immediately. Please do go back

home and bring them now" he pleaded.

But, Sun ignored Bat's plea and continued to rest. Bat went back home to poor little Darkie. He had to helplessly watch his child die. He cried all night long.

Early next morning, Bat saw Sun climb up from the horizon and blaze with all his might. He shouted across to Sun at the top of his indignant and sad voice:

"You have been a bad friend, Sun! I helped heal your child, but you would not go and fetch medicines for my little Darkie and now he is no more. He is dead, my son is dead! I will never be your friend again. I shall never look at your face or greet you when you rise!" So saying, he flew into the thick green of the forest and hung himself upside down on the bough of a tree, thick with foliage. Bat would never face Sun any more and Sun could never reach where he was!

To this day, bats hang upside down on their 'perches' and they fly out only at night!

- Auro Krishna, Std.IX,
S.A.I.C.E School,
Pondicherry

Everyone in the world would like to spend a vacation on an island. Who would say no to a lovely atmosphere, surrounded by water? Children would love to paddle in the water that borders the shores and gently wets their feet.

Here are some facts about islands which will help us to enjoy islands better when we get a chance to visit them:

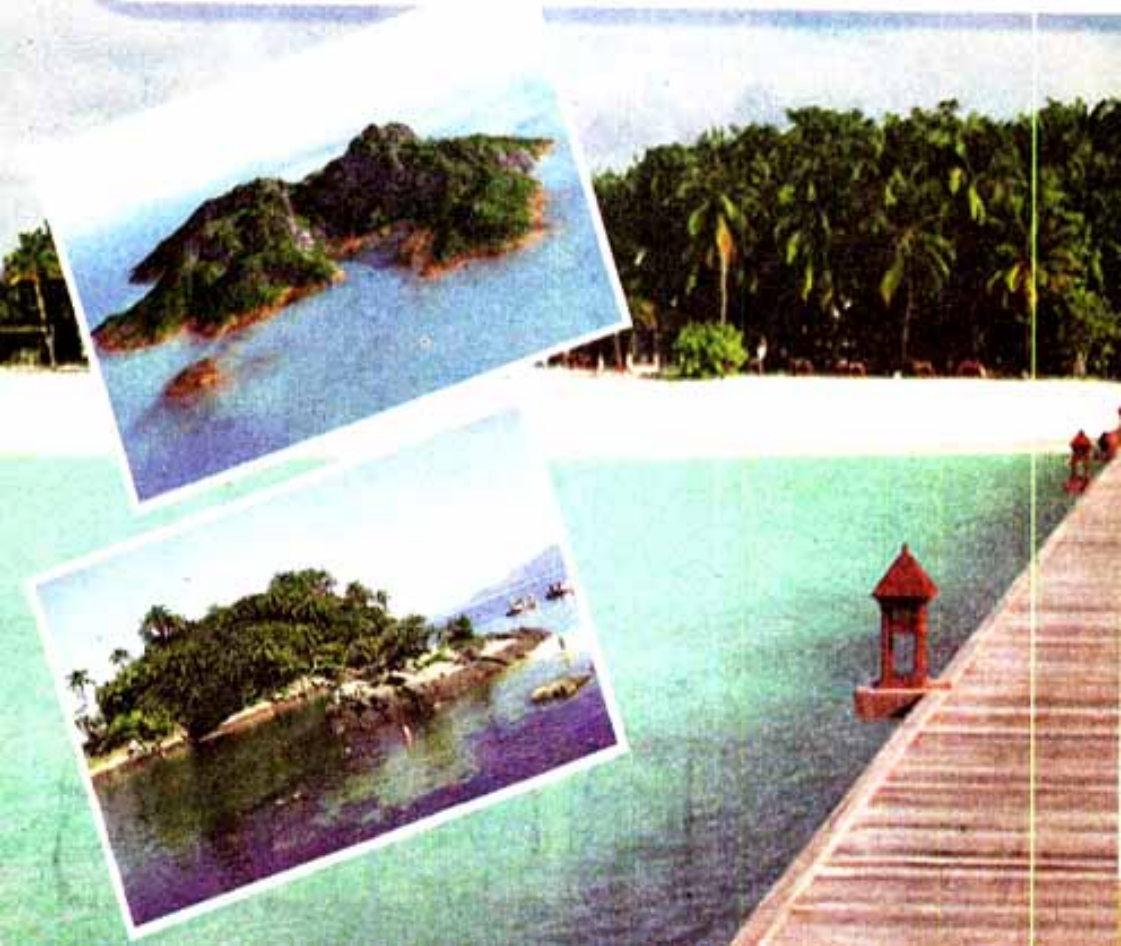
Actually there are four types of islands: Continental, oceanic, tectonic and coral.

Continental islands rise from the continental shelf – they lie close to a vast continent. The British Isles, lying close to Europe, are an example of continental islands.

Oceanic islands are found in the middle of the ocean and are not adjacent to other big land masses. They are very often the visible tops of submarine mountains or submarine volcanoes. (Submarine – under the sea).

Tectonic islands are those that are created by the movement of the earth over long passages of time.

Coral islands are the creation of



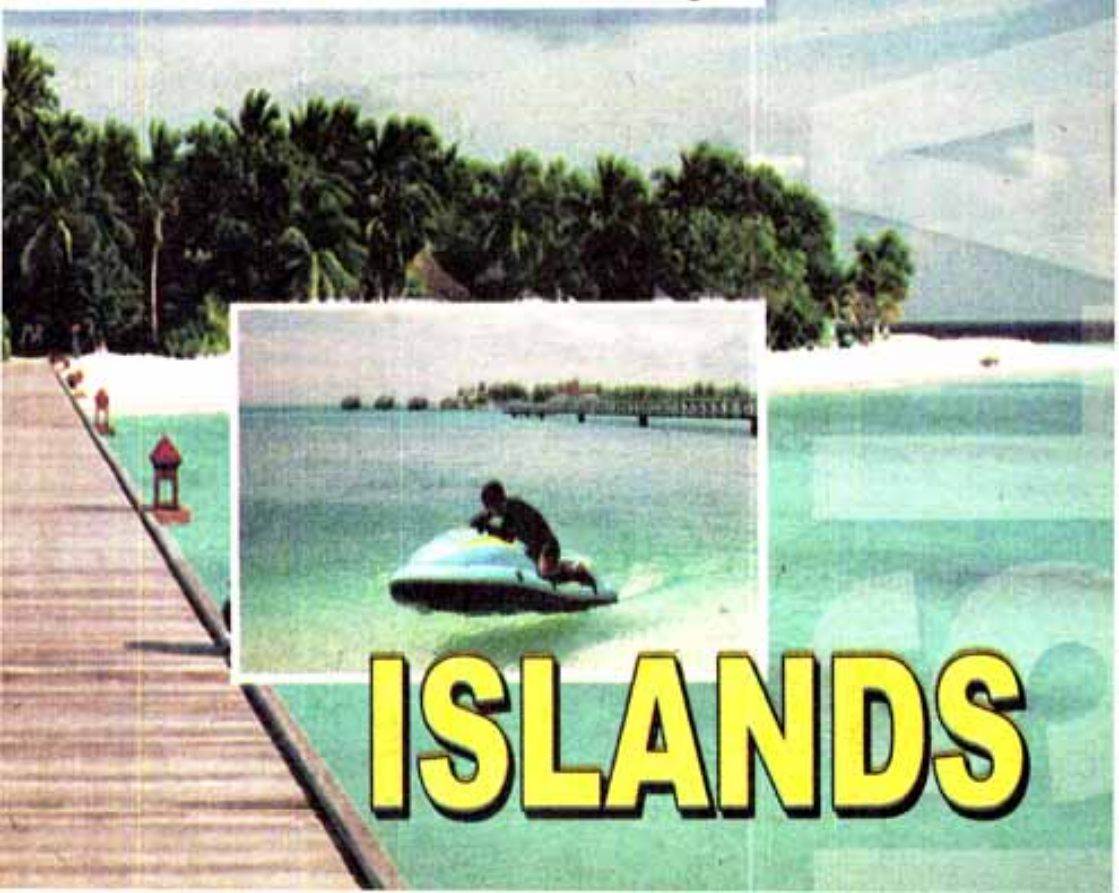
tiny sea organisms called coral pylons.

A stoll is a low, circular island with its own central lagoon of shallow water.

The world's most remote island in which people live, is Tristan da Cunha and the largest one is Greenland. The triangular shaped island in the Mediterranean sea is Sicily – a country. The Falkland islands are called Ilas Malvinas in Spanish. The smallest among these islands is Sri Lanka, in the Indian Ocean.

Baffin islands, the largest islands in the Canadian Arctic, are named after William Baffin.

- P.Padma Priya, Std.XI,
P.S.Chidambara Nadar Girls'
Higher Secondary School,
Virudhunagar.



ISLANDS

Write a Script

Fill the thought bubbles and speech bubbles in this picture with suitable dialogues. Pull out the pages carefully, fill in the details in the coupon and post to Gokulam, 47, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Chennai - 600 032, before 25th December. The best three dialogues will win rupees hundred each.

My Name : ..... Class :.....

School : .....

Residential address : .....

.....

competition

LETTER BOX

I love to read Gokulam. I tried out the choco apples recipe from the October issue and it tasted great. Please make this magazine a fortnightly.

- Smrithi, Std.VI, St.Vincent Palloti School, Bengalooru.

I sat and thought over the entire quarterly holidays and have written out many pieces for Gokulam. But I am unhappy that the last date for viewpoint is 20th of every month. My Gokulam copy reaches me only on the 20th!

- R.Pooja, Age:13, St.Joseph's M.H.S.S, Coimbatore.

(Dear Pooja, Please note that the last date for all competitions has been shifted to 25th – editor)

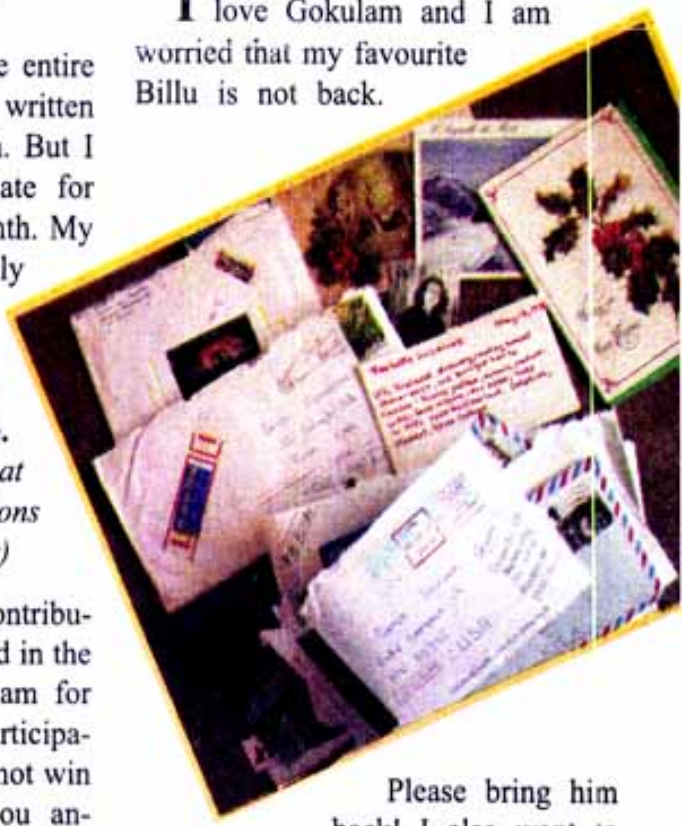
I was delighted that my contribution to viewpoint was published in the October issue. I thank Gokulam for making my day. Do we get participation certificates even if we do not win prizes in the competitions you announce?

- Vishishtha Upul, Std.VI, D.A.V. Public School, Ranchi.

Will I get participation certificates for sending letters to letter-box or grandma worm?

(Dear readers, You will not get participation certificates for these two columns. Nor will you get participation certificates for contributions which are not published. Do remember to put down your name and other personal details in all your contributions. You have not done so! –editor)

I love Gokulam and I am worried that my favourite Billu is not back.



Please bring him back! I also want to ask if Gokulam has a Hindi edition.

- B.Durga Sharma, Std.VII, K.V.D.G.Q.A, Chennai

(No, Durga, there is no Hindi edition of Gokulam. We will try to bring Billu back soon – editor)

During Durga Pooja, I was listening to some music at home and suddenly I heard the postman calling out.

I openend the door and found that I had received a complimentary copy of Gokulam. My writing had been published in viewpoint! The twentyfive rupees I got for it was the first earning in my life.

- Neha Jha, Std.XI,
Rama Devi Women's College,
Bhubaneshwar

Bring Billu Back, Please!

My hobby is to read books and Gokulam is one of them. It has helped me gain knowledge about the world. I enjoy reading it. I wait impatiently for the next issue after finishing the one on hand. I would like to thank the publisher for publishing such a wonderful magazine.

- R.V.Aditi ,
Std.VII, Venkat International Public School, Bengalooru.

I bought Gokulam for the first time casually and started reading it. I became fascinated. Now I am a regular reader. Can I send stories without the pictures?

- V.Keerthana,
Age:11, S.B.O.A School, Chennai.

(Yes, Keerthana, you can send in stories without pictures – editor)

The school event about 'Englsih week' which appeared in the Novemeber issue has already been publisehed in the August issue. I have been contributing regularly but my writing has not been published yet. When you republish, you deny somebody else an opportunity.

- K.Indra Priyadarshini,
Std.VIII, Lourde Matha Convent M.S, Udumalpet.

(The error is regretted - editor)

A TRULY CLEAN ZONE!

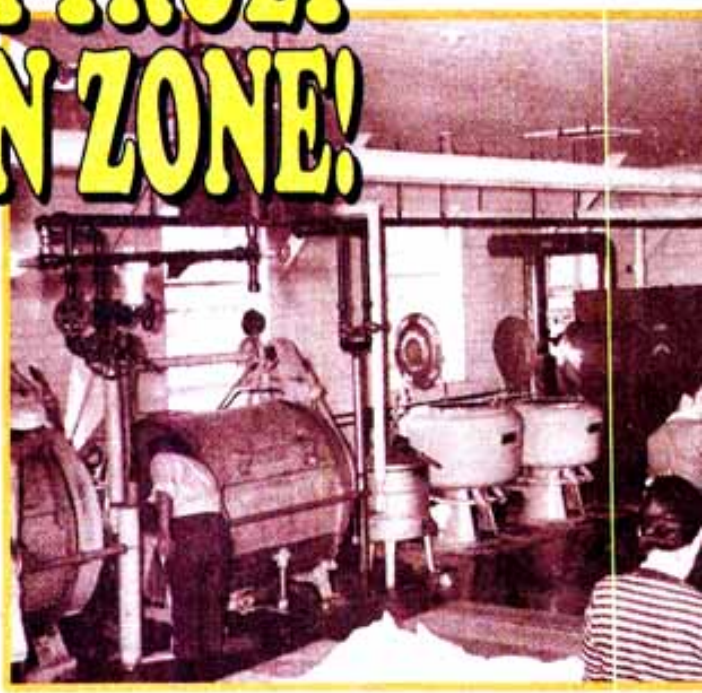
A hospital should be the seat of cleanliness, for more than one reason.

A hospital may be divided into three parts, based on the degree of cleanliness. They are a) common area, b) semi sterile zone and c) sterile zone.

Operation theatre (which we have already discussed in this serial) and autoclave department (which we shall discuss later) are classic examples of 'sterile zones'. Only zero percent bacteria are permissible in this zone.

A semi sterile zone is also called 'pre-sterile zone'. This may be considered a zone in between common area and sterile zones. It is a transit zone. One such place is the room between common area and operation theatre. Here starts the sterility. Chances of contamination are there – but they are kept to the minimum.

There is a difference between a residential common area and hospital common area. The standard of cleanliness in a hospital should be much more than that in a house for obvious reasons. Generally patients, who assemble in large numbers in a hospital, have very low resistance. So they can easily catch an infection. Hence all the materials used in a hospital must be sterile. That is why patients who are admitted in a hospital are made to wear uniforms. This is for the comfort of



* A hospital laundry

the patient as well as ideal from the point of view of hygiene.

When we say that the materials used in a hospital should be sterilized, we mean not just injection needles. Even the bed sheet used and shirt worn by the patients should be sterile.

• sterile zone

The possibility of one patient spreading his/her infections to other patients is also hazardous. When a patient is attacked by infectious micro-organisms, the immunity system in his body fights against the 'foreigners'. When the foreigners are victorious, medicines are administered. A few of the bacteria may be killed by the medicine whereas the remaining bacteria show resistance to the drugs. It is, mostly, at this stage that patients are admitted in a hospital. Thus highly resistance bacteria which are not killed by ordinary anti-biotics are available in large numbers in a hospital. This is very dangerous because cross infection is likely to happen. Also visitors may supply, unintentionally, their bacteria to patients and the latter may distribute his infectious organisms to the visitors.

STERILE ZONES

In this area, clothes are not brought (worn) from outside. Every doctor inside an operation theatre will be covered head to toe. Nowadays the caps and gloves used by surgeons are disposable ones. That is, they are used once and thrown away. This is done to avoid infections passing from one patient to the other. Such disposable material is not made of cloth,

but of tissue papers lined with a sort of plastic. Nowadays even aprons worn by surgeons are made disposable.

Every person in the operation theatre shall wear a cap so that no bacteria from their hair are transferred to the patient. Surgeons wear a mask which filters bacteria. They should wear full armed clothing so that their hands are fully covered so that there is no exchange of bacteria. The shoes

or chappals worn by the medical staff inside an operation theatre are not to be taken out of the theatre.

All the materials used in an operation theatre will be sterilized. Even the air inside the theatre should be sterile. The theatre is periodically fumigated – mostly once every week. This is an act of vaporizing and no one is allowed to enter the theatre during that time. An entry could be made only after four hours of fumigation.

Bacteria might have settled in the table, chair, and other equipments in the operation theatre. They might have settled even in the air conditioner duct. Hence 'culture-swab' (that is some surfaces of the above are swabbed and sent to a lab to check the presence of bacteria) is done at regular intervals, say once in six months.

Patients coming to the operation theatre will be made to wear sterile caps. The stretcher which brings them from the ward towards the operation theatre, is not allowed inside the theatre. The patient is transferred to a sterile stretcher and then taken into the theatre.

Generally, in big hospitals a mini lift is installed near the operation theatre. This is linked to common sterile department (often referred to as CSD). This is to avoid the surgery materials (which have a very high possibility of being infected when they enter the theatre); from spreading infections while coming out of it.

There are more interesting facts on this. We shall describe them in the next issue.

(to be continued)

As told to G.S.S.

Peter : Is your father a C.I.D.?
Paul : Yes, he is
Peter : Can he find my lost pen?

- Ananya, Trichy

"Albert."
"Albert who..?"
"Albert you don't know who it is!"

- S.Vismitha,
Stella Maris School,
Bengalooru

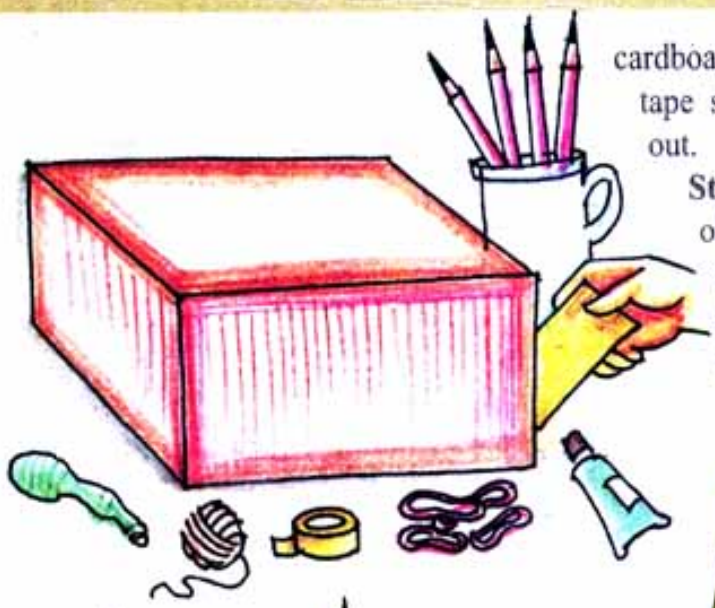
Knock knock!
"Who's there?"
"Cows.."
"Cows who..?"
"No, they don't, they moo!"

• • •

Knock,knock
"Who's there?"

Just for Laughs!

A MINI



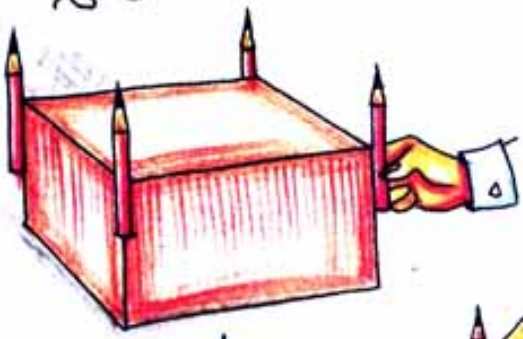
You need:

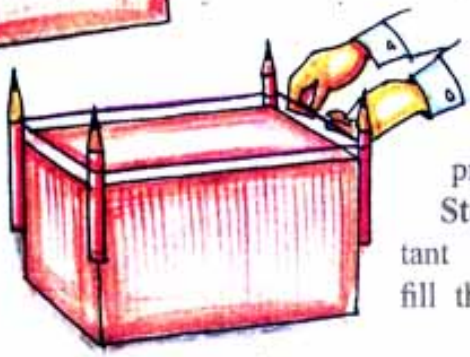
A cardboard box – rectangular
A strong, long rubber band
A small rubber band
A small piece of wood
Pencils – 4 (equal in size and weight)
Cellotape
A balloon
Some twine

Step 1 : Fix the bottom of the cardboard box firmly with cello tape so that it will not open out.

Step2 : Take four pencils of equal weight and length and fix them on each side of the box, using the cello tape.

Step 3 : Stretch the rubber band and suspend it onto the two pencils, so that it hangs in between them. Now wind the rubber band tightly around the small piece of wood. This 'device is our motor boat propeller.





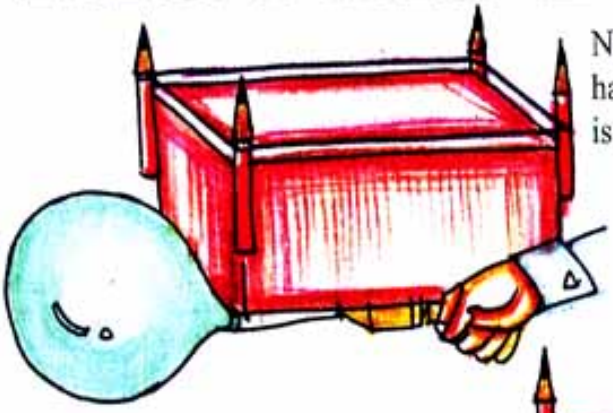
Step 4 : For an assistant propulsion system, fill the balloon with air

and fix its mouth with the small rubber band. Tie one end of the twine to the balloon and the other end of it to the bottom of the cardboard box. The balloon should rest on the top edge of the box.

Step 5 : Fill a large tub with water and place your cardboard boat in the water. Gently loosen the rubber band around the wooden piece and it will start to unwind, propelling the boat in the opposite direction. At the same time, the inflated balloon floating on the water gives buoyancy and helps as an extra propulsion system.

The principles used in this home-made boat are 'energy conversion' and Newton's third law of motion. The twisted rubber band is potential energy and when it is released, it turns into mechanical energy. When the balloon thrust's the boat forward, Newton's principle 'every action has an equal and opposite reaction' is at play.

MOTOR BOAT!



- G.S.Anush Ramsurat,
Std. X, Indian School, Sohar,
Sultanate of Oman

Appreciating ART

WHAT ARE THE ARTS?

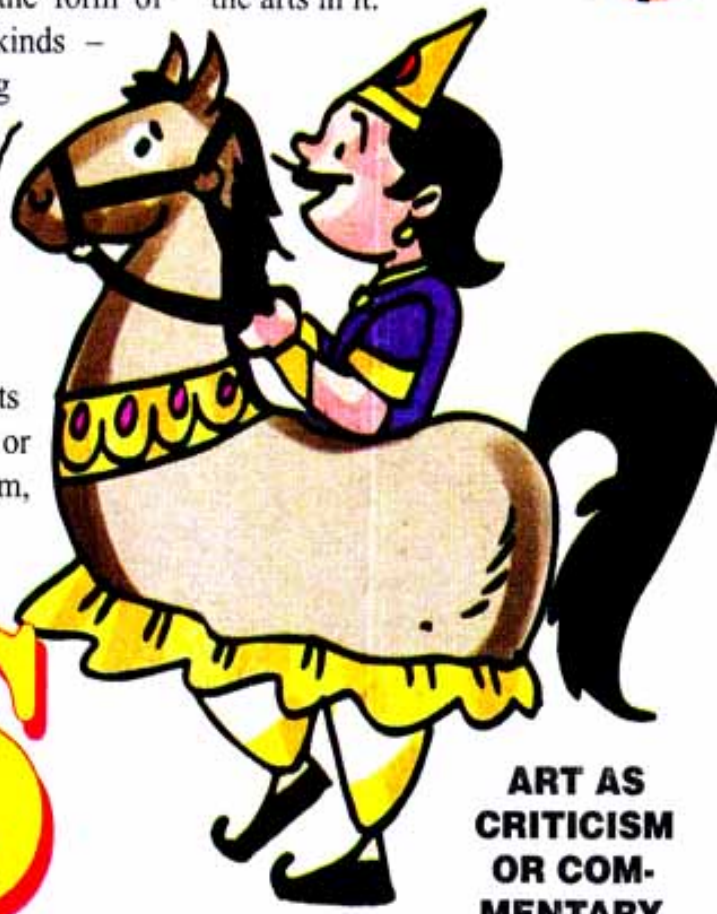
How would you define the 'arts'? Is it drawing and painting? Dancing? Music? The 'arts' are a bit of all this and to do with anything creative. You have the visual arts – drawing and painting, decorative art and crafts; and the performing arts(dancing, singing); language art(poetry, literature) and of course, the culinary arts(to do with food and cooking). It's a bit difficult to pinpoint and say, "This is not art" for anything that has creativity and beauty in it can be termed 'art'.

WHY DO WE HAVE THE ARTS?

It's a bit too much to have human beings work, work and work all the time. We all need a bit of relaxation, a bit of lightening up and not the least, plenty of creativity. Creativity also helps in making our work more interesting. That's why if you look at history, art flourished side by side with every development in the evolutionary process.

Where there was war, there was

story-telling in the form of ballads and song. Song, dance and visual arts were a part of farming and town civilizations in the form of festivals of various kinds – example: spring festival, harvest festival, etc. Our history is rich and replete with a vast repertoire* of festivals – each with its own song, dance or visual art form (kolam, rangoli with colours, flowers, etc). Art is not just relaxation, it is entertainment too and modern technology has not just given it a stage, but made it into films and airwaves (the radio). Think a bit and you will discover, that every day, some or many moments of our life, has the arts in it.



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ART AS CRITICISM OR COMMENTARY OF LIFE

In that sense, the arts have always grown alongside with social development. Every step that Mankind has taken has been captured by the arts. The arts like visual and performing, hold up a mirror to society, acting as a social conscience to us, through history.

*list of all the ingredients or parts that make up a body of work/creativity

Criticism is often through satirical** plays or ballads, sometimes even poetry.

The earliest known capturing of this human evolution has been in the cave art (cave paintings in Europe date to 32,000 years ago) and rock paintings. So many cave and rock paintings have been found in Europe, Africa and Asia, and depict people of that era going through their life's activities – like hunting, worshipping, etc.

ART TODAY!

Art today is premium and has evolved into a field with many compartments, each important in its own right. Art is recognised as a skill and a talent that requires nurturing and appreciation. Art has moved into unconventional spaces, partnering technology by becoming computerised. There is furniture art, (no, you don't break furniture to make these, but create furniture pieces that themselves are work of art), lighting, landscape gardening, poster design, buildings, and there is art in abstract paintings or in modern dances… In fact, anything that reflects or creates beauty is art.

**the use of wit, irony, etc to show up human vices, folly, etc

HOW YOU CREATE OR KEEP ART ALIVE

If you are in some way creative, you become a part of this art creation in one of the fields mentioned above and more. However, if you don't feel that you have the muse***, you can still enjoy and appreciate certain art forms. For example you may not find too much beauty in the visual arts, but may enjoy the performing art like dance or music. It's up to you what strikes a chord within you, and what you enjoy. But art is never out of your life – every part of your everyday life has some form of art in it. Whether it is drawing symmetrical

***a source of inspiration

'Arti' Facts!

Bones were probably used as the first flutes by early man. Bones with holes which might have served as flutes, have been discovered in Russia and Hungary. They date back to pre-historic times.

The musicals were a new kind of musical stage shows that developed in the early twentieth century. They had a story line and many song and dance sequences connected to it. Many such musicals were made into movies in later years.

Most Indian classical dance forms boast of a heritage that is many centuries old.

Most Indian films can be called musicals because thy have a number of song and dance sequences. The making of a film is in itself a medley of many art forms, ranging from cinematography to the latest graphic effects.

(Source: Children's Reference – The Way We Live)

- Hamsini Natarajan, Std. X, Delhi Public School, Panipat

lines to create a pattern in your rough note book, doodling when you are bored, or creating splashes of colour in the paint software in your computer while you listen to the ipod or mp3 - every part of this is 'art'!

Art de-stresses us, makes us relax. Art makes us smile or laugh. It is there in the comic book that you read, the colours on your clothing and how you mix and match them to wear something you like.

Be aware, and make it a point to understand at least one art form. You may or may not like it – if you don't, move on to discover another new one, one that you can enjoy and learn more of by reading up on it. For don't forget, even that exciting new film in which your favourite actor is starring, is art! ●

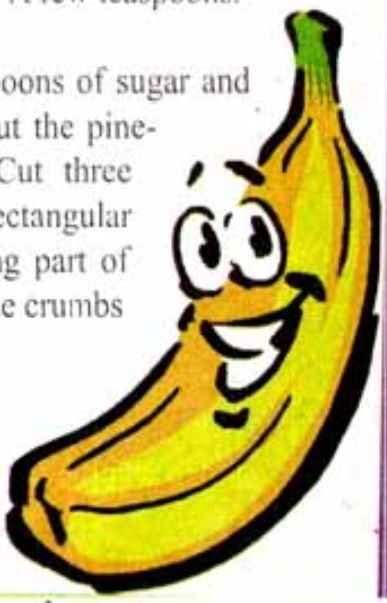
Banana Pineapple

You need:

Sliced bananas – 2
Pineapple slices – 2
Fresh cream – 1 cup
Icing sugar – to taste
Sponge cake – 1
Lime juice – A few teaspoons.

Method :

Toss the bananas with two spoons of sugar and add a teaspoon of lime juice. Cut the pineapple slices into tiny cubes. Cut three fourths of the sponge cake into rectangular slices. Disintegrate the remaining part of the cake into crumbs and mash the crumbs



You need :

Your choice of biscuits – two packets
Condensed milk – 6 to 8 teaspoons
Coconut powder – 2 tablespoons
Dry fruits and nuts mixture – 4 spoons
Cherries for decoration

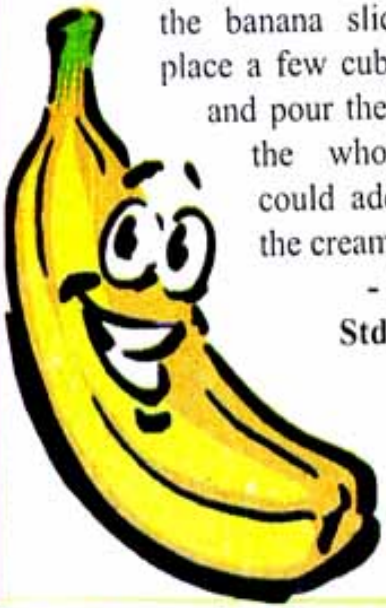
Method : Run the biscuits in a mixie and powder them well. Mix condensed milk, coconut powder and dry fruits to the biscuit powder and

Surprise!

with 2 to 3 spoons of the fresh cream. Mix well.

Now spread a thin layer of this mixture on each slice of the sponge cake that you have cut out. Place a few banana slices on top of each slice. Pour a little cream over the banana slices placed thus. Now place a few cubes of pineapple over it and pour the rest of the cream over the whole arrangement. You could add some sugar syrup to the cream if you want it sweeter.

- K. Keerthana Sharma, Std.IX, S.V.Union School, Pune



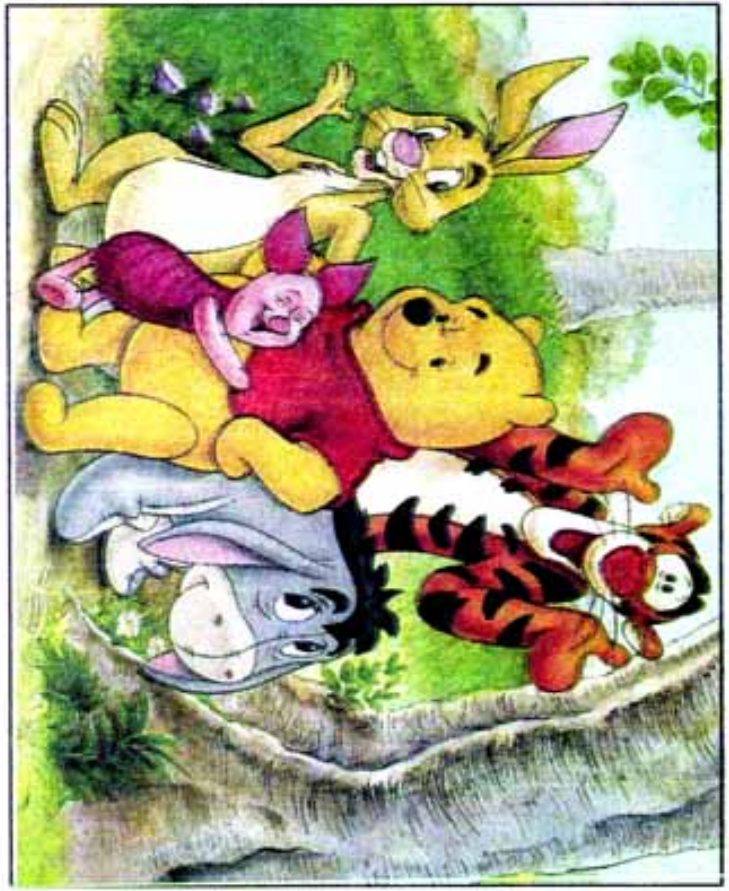
Biscuit Laddoos

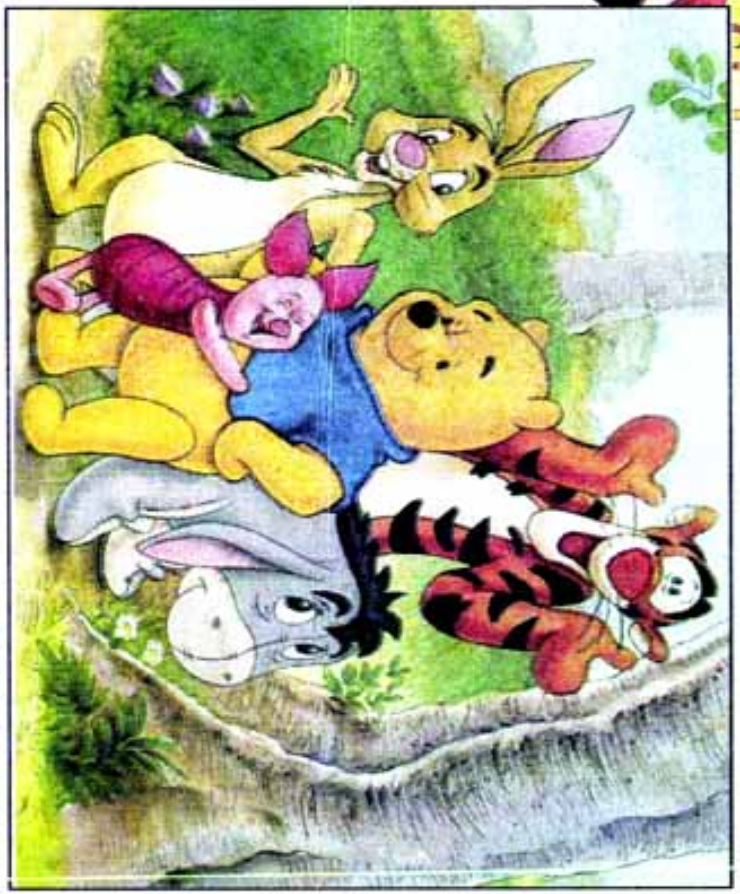
knead into a firm dough. Grease your hand with some butter and roll small quantities of the dough into medium-sized laddoos. Decorate with cherries and stick a cashew nut into each if you like. Easy to make and tasty to eat!

- Yogika Garg, Std. IX, Little Scholar School, Begumpet, Hyderabad

HOW SHARP ARE YOU..?

Can you spot the five differences between the two pictures?





Answers : 1.Tiger's hand, 2.Bear's shirt colour, 3.Rabbit's moustache, 4.Leaves of the tree, 5.Donkey's ear

Attention!

Most of you have been sending us jokes, facts and snippets gathered from the internet or G.K. books. Do show us how original you can be. Write your thoughts and ideas on various issues. Report funny happenings at school or home. Do make sure that you put down your name, age, class, school name and residential address individually on each and every contribution that you send to Gokulam.

★ The best ones will be published and a participation certificate will be sent to the contributor.

★ Please preserve your participation certificates. **In case you don't receive the certificates which are mailed to you by Gokulam, keep a xerox copy of your contribution in your collection. The contributor who collects the most number of certificates will win a prize.**

★ All competition entries should reach us before the last date mentioned.

★ Entries to Birthday Bash column should reach us along with the appropriate message and photographs **two months before the birthday.**

★ Do be original in your contributions and creations. If you have based your writing on a source, be sure to acknowledge it and name it and...

NEVER EVER COPY!

ALL GOKULAM READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS...

Congrats,

Budding Fashion Designers!

The entries to the October Colouring Competition were riotously colourful! The three best out of them have been selected by children's writer and journalist **Mr.Arani Yuvaraj.** *May be the winners will grow up to be leading fashion designers! They win Rs. 100/- each.*

FESTIVAL
K.NITISH PRASAD,
Std.IX,
Don Bosco Mat. HSS,
Thanjavur
Diwali
COMPETITION

FESTIVAL
V.POORNIMA,
Std.XII,
Periyar Maniammai
Girls HSS,
Trichy
COMPETITION

The house was shrouded in gloom.

Peppy couldn't stop the tears from coursing down her cheeks. Even Mamma and Dad, who, though they had reluctantly taken up the care of the kittens, felt the loss keenly. What shocked everyone was the brutal way Jersey had met her end. At no time in their old home had dogs ever been a threat to the kittens.

But it was GV who grieved the most. At first, it didn't really feel like Jersey had gone; he still expected her to come stalking up the compound wall, meowing for her food, or sun herself on the verandah. He sniffed around the house mournfully, calling out to her, even though he knew that she would never return.

Peppy and Papa made sure that Jersey was given a decent burial, but the excitement of moving in was ruined for them. No one had any appetite, least of all Peppy, who swallowed some bread the next morning and slunk off to school - her school van came to pick her up - and as there was so much to do, everyone tired to concentrate on getting the job done.

Everyone except GV.

For the others, except perhaps Peppy, Jersey had been a pet cat - but to him, she had been a twin, his best

PAVITHRA SRINIVASAN

CA(UGH)T IN THE CITY!

friend, the only other person GV had known right from birth. They'd done everything together : play, fight, run about, gambol, have meals... and they had even slept curled around each other. Not having her around was like missing an arm or leg.

With Peppy at school, he moped around miserably, not caring how life went on from this point. Then, that afternoon, as he sat dejectedly by the front gate, he espied the three brown dogs on the street.

Instantly he was up, hackles rising. As he meowed in frustration, the dogs ranged themselves on the other side, growling. He would show them. How dared they strike at his beloved twin! How dared they destroy her... like an insect! He snarled and hissed, prepared to gouge their eyes out, his sharp claws stretching to their fullest. Just as GV was about to leap towards the enemy, another distraction occurred.

On the compound wall of the huge mansion opposite, sat a large cat, its scraggly white coat sprinkled with patches of black and brown. Its eyes looked worried, just slits in the afternoon sun. Obvious-

ly, it had been chased by the three dogs, which had then transferred their interest to GV. Now it was trying to jump down, to make good its escape. Unfortunately for it, one of the dogs caught sight of the cat trying to slink away. Promptly, they left GV and raced after the hapless animal.

GV, watching, acted on the spur of the moment. He leapt towards the gate, distracting the ferocious, snarling dogs. The dogs hesitated a moment, trying to decide which cat to go after - which gave the white cat time to leap gracefully across the compound wall, race across the street and streak into GV's home.

The dogs barked, snarled and practically threw themselves at the gate, which shook with their weight. A panicked Dad ran out of the house at the ruckus, shooing the dogs away. GV took advantage of the distraction to size the new arrival.

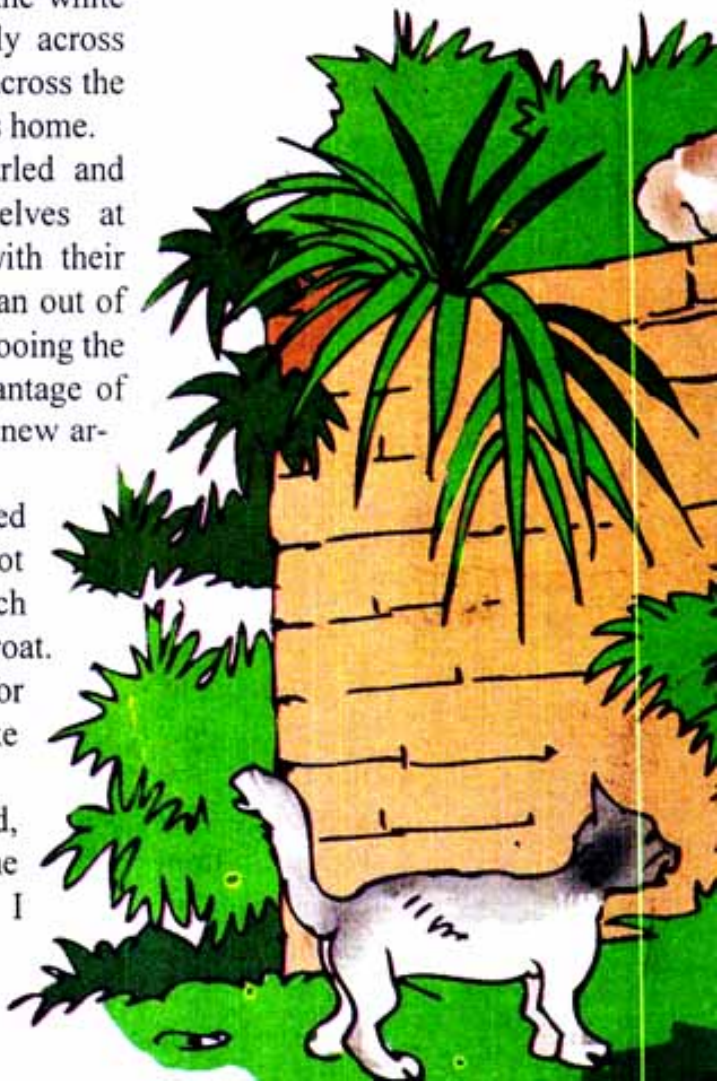
Certainly she looked sleek and graceful - a lot like Jersey in fact, which brought a lump to his throat. They stared at each other for a while. The white cat broke the silence first.

"Thank you," she said, flopping down onto the verandah. "For a while, I thought I was done for."

"Don't mention it," GV answered. On an impulse, he added, "You look a lot like my twin." He paused. "She died this morning."

There was an awkward silence. "I'm sorry" the white cat said finally. She nodded at the gates. "Those dogs? We've lost many cats that way. They simply won't let anyone live here." She paused. "My name's Mee-u."

GV felt like smiling, after a long time. "I'm GV." He pointed a paw behind him. "I live with my family



here. We just moved in."

Mee-u raised her eyebrows. "You actually live with a family?" She spied his milk cup and saucer by the door. "They really feed you?"

Her obvious amazement and disbelief offended him. "I was born in their home," he said a little haughtily. "They raised me and my sister - we've been part of the family for months. Peppy is my mamma," he finished importantly.

"Please don't take offence," Mee-u begged. "It's just that - most people raise dogs; they really hate cats because they say we steal all their milk. I've been driven out and beaten more times than I care to remember."

"What!" GV was horrified. "People beat you?" He remembered Peppy's tender caresses and the way Dad never forgot even a single meal of his. "I've never even been scolded," he blurted.

"Then you're probably the luckiest cat in the universe," Mee-u pronounced. "Unlike our friend here." Another brown and white striped cat appeared on the compound wall, hissing and spitting. GV stepped back in alarm.

"Don't be afraid," Mee-u said nonchalantly. "He's a friend of mine - he's just angry that you've arrived to share in our food. He doesn't know that you're far better off than any of us." She stalked off towards the brown cat, and in a few well-placed meows, explained the situation.

The grey cat stalked towards GV. "The name's Mud-head - because my head's brown," he said, "Say, do you really have three meals a day?"

They tried to make conversation, but Mud-Head wandered out on the compound wall often, provoking Mee-u into protest. Finally, she gave up. "Come with us" she asked GV. "I can't let Muddy wander off by himself - he's too careless. If there're three of us, the dogs might stay away."

In this, however, she proved to be wrong. The dogs were not visible from the verandah - but they had cleverly concealed themselves behind the gate-post, waiting for one or the other of the cats to wander out. The moment GV, Muddy and Mee-u appeared through the gates, they attacked.

Muddy and Mee-u, being more streetwise, leapt upon the compound wall in a flash - but GV, untrained in jumping and running like the other two, hesitated a few too many seconds. He tried to run past the dogs, but was cornered by a large black dog. Panic cut through him. He was going to die, like Jersey. He was going to be torn apart... did it hurt to die?

He let out a strangled cry. One of the brown dogs, bigger than the other two, was sitting a little apart, watching him out of cold brown eyes. The black dog had his paws on GV's neck; GV could feel hot breath down his neck, saliva dripping...

The next instant a shriek resounded. "GV!" Peppy was getting down from the school van. She'd come to rescue him!

As though by magic, the dogs retreated. They gave a long howl and ran away, the brown dog more slowly, and giving backward looks. Peppy, in the meanwhile, scooped GV in her arms, stroking him. He huddled against her, his heart beating painfully fast. Mee-u and Muddy watched, agape.

The black dog had his paws on GV's neck; GV could feel hot breath down his neck, saliva dripping...

"Don't worry, those dogs won't get you," Peppy crooned. "I'm never letting you out of the house again!"

Frightened he might be - but GV was startled. If he was never allowed out of the house, how would he ever learn to guard himself? How would he meet Mee-u and Mudhead?

And how would he ever learn the mystery of the brown dog that never attacked?

(To be continued)

Lively Teasers!

1. A lace that you cannot tie
2. A noisy angle.
3. A perseverant angle.
4. A nocturnal, melodious gust of wind!
5. What do you call the people who live opposite your opposite house?

- P.Sushma, Std.VIII, Arul Malar M.H.S.S., Madurai

6. What's the door number of a lion's house?
7. Which TV programme does a lion like best?
8. In the second toss between you and a monkey (which has already won the first toss), which side should you call to level the points?

- S.Lakshmi, SJSSJS, Tirunelvelli.

9. Which is the best key to have..?
10. Which pillar has life?
11. If you drop a white hat into the Red sea, how does it come out?
12. Press me at the bottom, meet me at the top – who am I?

- S.Srinivasan, Std.V, P.S.M School, Chennai.

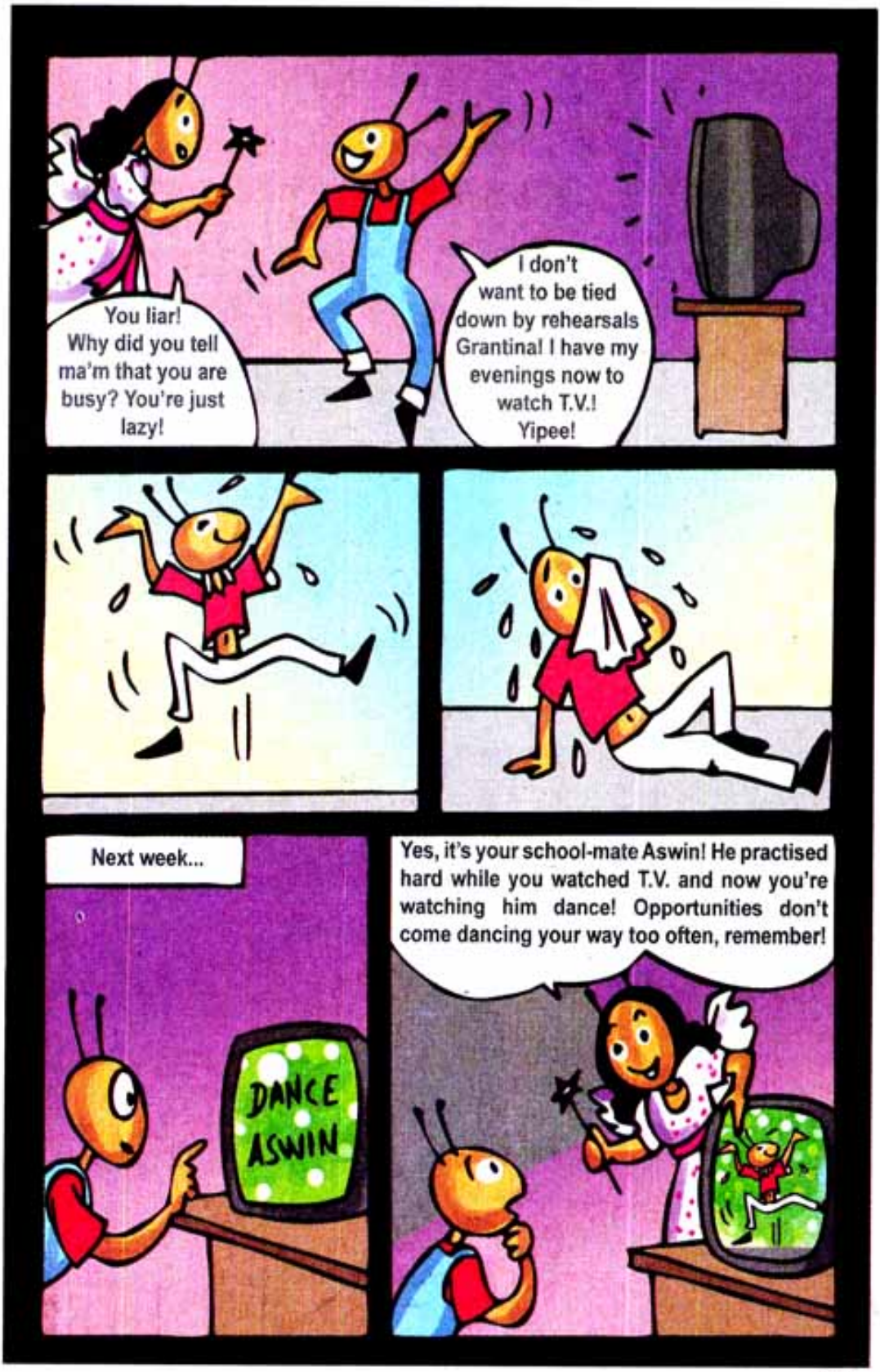
13. Which nation would you find in a garden?
14. What has many teeth but cannot bite?
15. What has a tongue but cannot speak?
16. Which is a snake's favourite subject?

- R.Niranjan Kumar, Std.VIII, Bhakthavatsalam Vidyashramam, Chennai

ANSWERS: 1) necklace 2) bangle 3) 'tri'angle 4) nightingale 5) your family! 6) 'den' 7) c'roar'pathi 8) Tail – because the monkey already has a tail! 9) luc'ky'! 10) caterpillar 11) wet! 12) tooth paste! 13) pollination 14) comb15) a shoe 16) 'his'tory

Antony and Grantina *in* CHANCE and DANCE!

arttichudii


You liar! Why did you tell ma'm that you are busy? You're just lazy!
I don't want to be tied down by rehearsals Grantina! I have my evenings now to watch T.V.! Yipee!
Next week...
DANCE ASWIN
Yes, it's your school-mate Aswin! He practised hard while you watched T.V. and now you're watching him dance! Opportunities don't come dancing your way too often, remember!

Goodbye Gentleman!

Anil Kumble who retired from test and ODI's, recently is a happy man. With Mishra and Dhoni to make good his absence, he is glad that he does not leave a void in the team.

Kumble was perhaps the first spinner that the younger generation of cricket enthusiasts saw in action. When he pranced around bowling with his spectacles in the first match against England, no one imagined that he would get this far. But almost every match since then has had Kumble contributing to it solidly! For eighteen years, he has lived up to the expectations of his fans and captains with a tally of 337 wickets in one-dayers and 619 in test matches.

In a game which has turned rather hostile, with opponents freely expressing displeasure to each other, Kumble has stood out as a gentleman. He has never been summoned by the refree till he was called in his capacity as captain, to be told of Harbhajan or Sreesanth's misconduct on the field.

Captaincy came to Kumble's hands during his last phase. A haul of six wickets in the last match of the Hero Cup series, teaming up with Srinath to turn an almost lost match into a victory at Bengalooru, and bagging all ten wickets at a match in New Delhi are some of the feathers in Kumble's cap.

SOLIDLY SACHIN!

Sachin is to India what Pele was to Brazil – a virtual demi-god! 12,000 runs with forty centuries in test cricket, are just mind-boggling by any standards.

It was in 1989 that Sachin entered the scene of Indian cricket in which he has left a blazing trail. It was a series against Pakistan. In

an exhibition match, Sachin sent four balls off Abdul Khader over for smashing sixes! There was no looking back afterwards.

World Cup '96, and Sachin was a star, every movement of his being keenly followed by fans and media with avid interest and admiration.

Kambli and Manjrekar, whose careers began around the same time as Sachin's, faded out of the scene early, while Sachin solidly anchored innings after innings for India.

A fanatic fan-following set its expectations high on Sachin Tendulkar. No player has met with as much ire as he did from fans, when not in form! That was the liberty they took with him!

Today, Sachin has broken Brian Lara's record in one-day cricket. Someone else may surpass Sachin, but he will still be remembered with the same fondness, even a hundred years from now.

METEORIC RISE!

Saina, who missed the Olympic medal by a whisker, is today the junior world champion in badminton!

Trained by former champ Gopichand, Saina is just eighteen. Her parents are both former champions of the game from Haryana. When Saina won the 2006 Phillippines Open, she made heads turn. She had been seeded 86 and there was much disbelief when her victory became news. She had been national champion twice by then, but 86 to 1 was an amazing feat.

In her younger days, Saina would wake up at five in the morning and travel twenty kilometres by train, to get her practice. This was her routine through school days. She would catch up with lost sleep during train travel!

The world of sport, particularly of badminton, is looking to Saina to create more stir and break world records.

To Each His Own!

Bala and Thukra were two friends who lived on the banks of the Arabian sea.

Bala lived in a huge mansion, surrounded by coconut and mango orchards. There were fifteen rooms in his house and several people who constantly doted over him. He had an attic full of toys and goodies. He had all the luxuries and comforts befitting a prince.

On the other hand Thukra lived in a fisherman's hut surrounded by sand and shells and nothing else. Every morning he accompanied his father in a catamaran into the sea, with a fishing net. On days lucky, they caught sufficient to make a few bucks. But often they had just enough to feed their stomachs. On cold nights, Thukra clung to his parents and siblings and slept near the kitchen hearth to keep himself warm.

Yet, Bala and Thukra became the best of friends. They climbed many a tree, ran to the sea, picked crawling crabs and sneaky snails, and built huge sand castles.

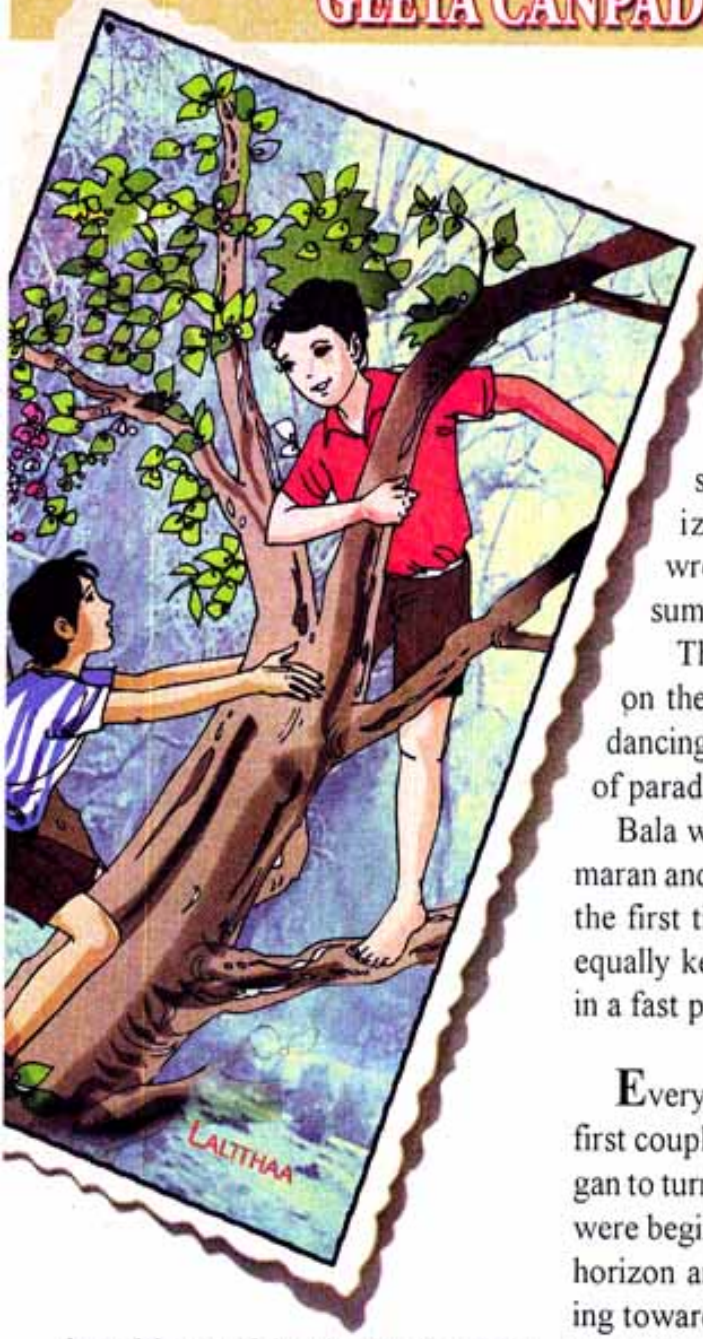
However, one thing always bugged the two friends. Each thought that the other was luckier then himself.

"How lucky Thukra is!" Bala would tell himself. "No school, no studies, carefree to do whatever he liked and here I need to stay shut indoors, mugging up all these nonsense formulae!"

Similarly, Thukra dreamt, gaping at the huge mansion. "How lucky Bala is! Nothing to worry about. Pampered and molly-coddled all the time and whatever asked for, handed over in a platter!"

More the boys brooded over this, more they became distressed. This started affecting their work. Thukra was no longer interested in fishing and fumed at the sight of fishes and Bala failed in his exams and hissed at the sight of books.

When the situation became very intense,



the elders of both the families worked upon a solution. They decided that the boys exchange their status for a day. Thukra should come to the mansion and live the life of a prince and Bala should spend twenty four hours in the fisherman's cove.

"That way," they presumed, "the boys will realize for themselves how wrong they were in their assumptions."

The friends were thrilled and on the appointed day they went dancing over to each others side of paradise.

Bala was excited to sit in a catamaran and go fishing into the sea for the first time in his life and Thukra equally keyed up to dash to school in a fast paced car.

Everything went off fine for the first couple of hours, until things began to turn a little tardy. Dark clouds were beginning to set at the western horizon and the waves began rushing towards the catamaran like hungry monsters. Bala was drenched from head to toe and he began shivering with fright and cold.

"What if a cyclone struck!

What if the boat capsized!

What if a huge shark came along and gobbled him up!

What if he sunk deep under the Arabian for good!"

Bala held on to the catamaran and shut his eyes fast. As a fresh wave hit his face, all he could do was lick the salt off his lips and mutter a prayer to the Saviour above.

But the fishermen were in no mood to return. They had still not caught a single fish. What would they have for dinner that night! Bala wanted to shout "I can get all the fish for you from my kitchen. Now just turn back and go to the shore.". But his voice seemed to have lost it's effect. He just sat mutely awaiting his fate.

What if a huge shark came along and gobbled him up!

Meanwhile Thukra was breaking his head over the alphabets. The teacher had even rapped him once with the sharp cane and later made him go over his knees and rub his nose to the ground.

How very mean!

And all for some stupid round round scribblings!

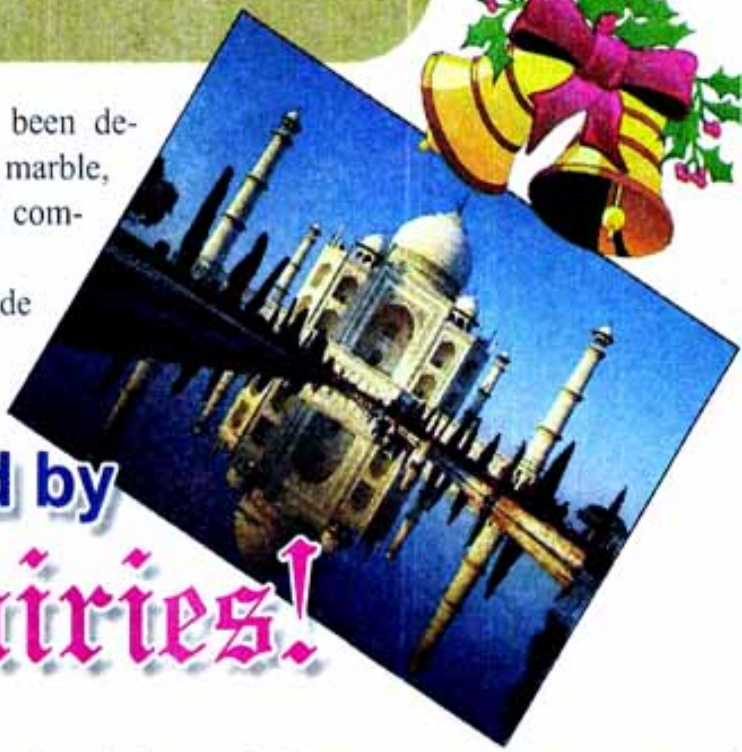
And when playtime arrived, he was not let outside just because it was drizzling and he might possibly catch a cold if he got drenched. Back at the huge mansion, he kept losing his way into the rooms every now and then. By evening he had enough of toys and clothes and sumptuous eats. He quietly walked over to the window and gazed towards the fisherman's cove with longing. He could spot his folks at a distance, dancing around the bon-fire on the beach after having barbecued and devoured the catch of the day.

He caught Bala gaping in his direction and knew what was going on in his mind too!

That night the two boys tossed and turned in their sleep. The sandy floor, next to the kitchen hearth was a bit too hard for Bala and the feathery quilt over the spongy bed was a bit too soft for Thukra.

And at day break even before the village was up, the boys were seen running away from what they had presumed to be paradise. They had finally realized the truth - To Each, His Own!

From that day onwards the two friends never cursed their fate. Instead, Bala offered to teach Thukra the alphabets and Thukra in turn, the tricks of fishing. That way the two friends made the best of both their worlds. ○



Designed by Fairies!

The Taj mahal has been described as a 'dream in marble, designed by fairies and completed by jewellers'.

This monument is made of pure white marble.

The central dome has the appearance of an inverted lotus.

There are four smaller domes at the four corners of the monument and four minarets stand at each corner of the terrace.

The outer walls are richly decorated with exquisite inlay and calligraphy.

The mausoleum is surrounded by beautiful gardens and fountains. It is a spectacular example of Mughal architecture.

- K.Vinoth, Theni

From Here and There...

- The oak is a hardwood tree with more than 450 species.
- Carbon-dioxide is 1.5 times as dense as air.
- In an industrial city, dust particles may increase up to three million particles per square centimetre.
- Up to 30 percent of the world's rain fall is wasted as surface run off.

- Saraswat Dikhit, Std.VIII, Ruchika High School, BBSR, Orissa

Interviewer : How many seconds are there in a year?

Candidate : Twelve.

Interviewer : How?

Candidate : January second, February second, March second and so on.

Lady : Can you get me a paper dosa please?

Waiter : Ruled or unruled?

Teacher : Give me an example of a compound sentence

Student : Stick no bills

Leela : Why are you studying in the street and why is your brother studying at the entrance of the house?'

Madhu : He is studying for the entrance exam and I am studying for the public exam!

WITH LAUGHTER!

Passenger : Is this bus running on time?

Conductor : No sir, it is running on it's wheels.

(At the Pyramids)

Mohan : Oh! I am so sorry to see these people bandaged up.

Ram : Yes, I think it must have been a lorry accident.

Mohan : Yeah, I can even see the lorry number written here – 356 B.C.

Customer : How much is my mobile bill?

Service counter staff : Just dial 123 to know your current bill sir.

Customer : I did not ask for my current bill, it is my mobile bill that I asked for.

Teacher : What is a cyclone?

Student : It is the loan given to buy cycles ma'm.

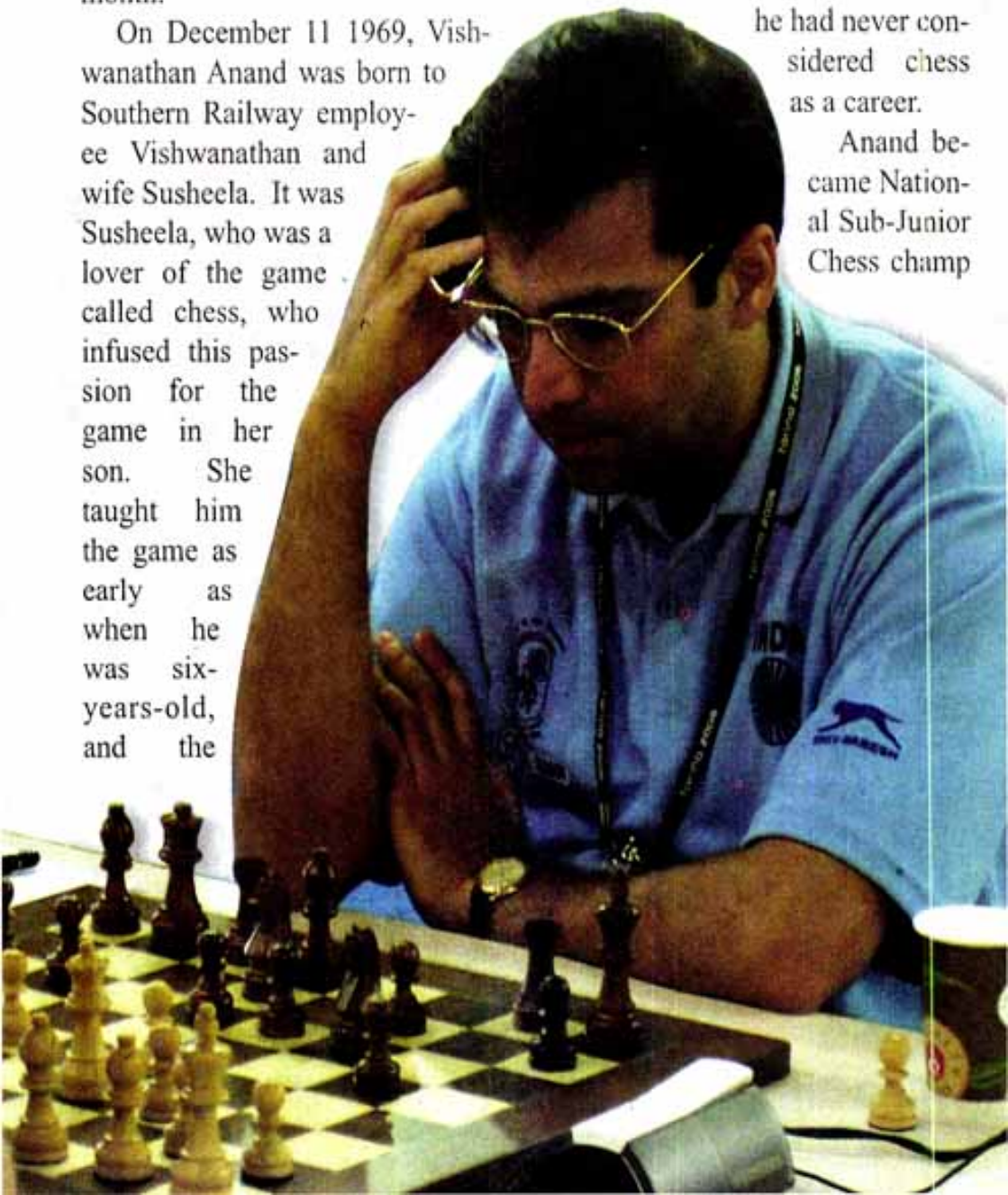
- V.Vaishali, Std. VII,
Seetha Kingston M.H.S.S., Chennai

They call him the 'king'. Not without reason – for today, he is the undisputed king of the chequered board in the world today. Vishwanathan Anand was born in Chennai in Tamil Nadu during this month.

On December 11 1969, Vishwanathan Anand was born to Southern Railway employee Vishwanathan and wife Susheela. It was Susheela, who was a lover of the game called chess, who infused this passion for the game in her son. She taught him the game as early as when he was six-years-old, and the young chess player began to win many prizes.

At that time, chess was not considered a sport to pursue – instead tennis and cricket were favoured hobbies/career paths. In an interview, Anand once confessed that he had never considered chess as a career.

Anand became National Sub-Junior Chess champ



at fourteen and moved on to become the youngest Indian International Master at the age of fifteen. The next year, he bagged the national chess championship twice, and from then on, there was no stopping his rise. When he was eighteen-years-old, he became our country's first grandmaster, and received the Padma Shri too. It is history now, that since then, Anand has received many many awards and citations including the Padma Vibhushan, the Arjuna Award and more.

But getting there was not easy. His parents overcame many difficult situations to help the young champion play various tournaments at home and abroad. They took the help of friends and relatives in their trips around the globe.

In the year 2000, he won the FIDE World Chess Championship

The King!

They organise the game

The International Chess Championship was one event until 1993, when the world title was split between two championships – the FIDE and the 'Classical' World Championships. In 2006, both titles were reunified into the World Chess Championship.

FIDE is the World Chess Federation and was founded in Paris in 1924. It has 161 countries as members and has unifying laws to govern the game of chess, making rules for the games and organising championships. The World Chess Championship is FIDE's most prestigious event.

for the first time, becoming the first Indian to get there. At that time there was also another 'Classical World Championship', a title that was held by Kramnik *(see box)*. Years later, the titles became unified, making for one winner and one champion.

Anand said in one of his interviews, in a tongue-in-cheek way, that he may have become a tennis player and not a chess player, if he had not had to wake up at 5.30am every morning to go play the game. In another interview, he declared that his ultimate dream was to become World Champion.

Anand, who is a commerce

Pratiksha is celebrating her 14th birthday on 8.12.2008. Many many happy returns of the day from **Mummy, Daddy and Brother (Mr.Pritesh.)**

My brother **A.V. Shivaseshasai,** Class VIII, is going to celebrate his 13th birthday on 09th December. I wish him a happy birthday.
- A.V. Sri Vaishnavi, Std.V, The Hyderabad Public School (R), Hyderabad

Birthday Bash

Anusha is celebrating her tenth birthday on 18th December 2008. Wishing for her health, happiness, prosperity and bright future. Happy birthday dear Molu.with lots of love
Mammu and Daddu
Medak, Hyderabad

Chiming Wishes!

graduate, now lives with wife Aruna in Collado Mediano in Spain. He has two siblings, a brother and a sister. In the initial days of his success, he was a poster boy for Indian teens, showing people that there is scope for success in fields that are not traditional. For in those days, most youngsters could not think of fields other than medicine, engineering or commerce as a career path.

In October this year, Anand beat Vladimir Kramnik of Russia at the World Chess Championship in Germany and was crowned undisputed king. ●

Anoushka
celebrates her 6th birthday on 14th December.
I wish her a very happy and delightful birthday.
- Rowena

T.Krishna Kumari
celebrates her 13th Birthday on 18th December.
Best wishes from
Manisha (Best Friend)
T.E.L. Kesav Reddy (Brother)
Sonu, Divya, Mummy, Daddy and friends

Anmol J.Bhattad
celebrates his 17th birthday on 25th December 2008.
May the almighty bless him with all happiness, health and success. Happy birthday wishes from
Akshay, Ritesh and family.

On December 16th my daughter **S.Suwetha** celebrates her birthday.
We wish her a Happy Birthday and properous future.
We hope that she will show a good result in her board Exam.
All the best. Don't fear, god is near and success is sure.with lots of love
Dad, Mom, Brother and friends

Test Your G.K.!

Each of these questions has an answer that ends with 'ology'. How many do you know..?

The study of

a) human mind

b) ancient civilizations

c) family history

d) handwriting

e) culture

f) earth sciences

g) animal life

h) organic process in bodies

i) language

j) weather

- G.Vijayalakshmi, Std.VI, Evershine English School, Bengalooru.

The answers to all the questions below begin with an 'f'. Try to find them.

k) An imaginary being with magical powers.

l) Something that you like very much.

m) A period of two weeks.

n) Something that can be easily broken or damaged.

o) Light brown marks on the skin.

p) Something given away without charges.

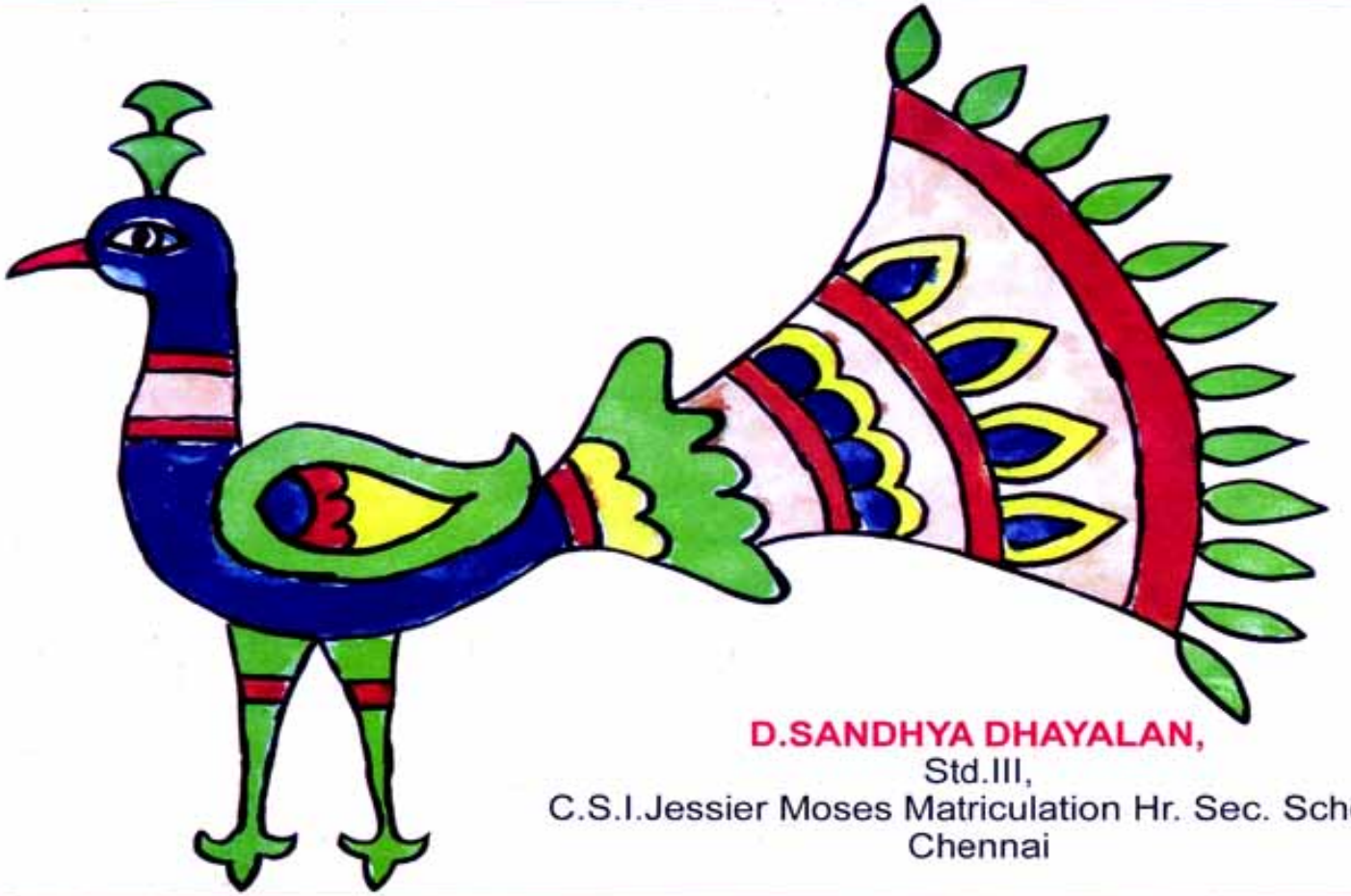
q) Cooking in hot fat.

(Source: internet)

- Shyamala.R, Std.VI, St.Joseph's M.H.S.S.S., Coimbatore

ANSWERS:

a) psychology b) archaeology c) geneology d) graphology e) anthropology f) geology g) zoology h) physiology i) philology j) meteorology k) fairy l) favourite m) fortnight n) fragile o) freckles p) free q) fry



D.SANDHYA DHAYALAN,
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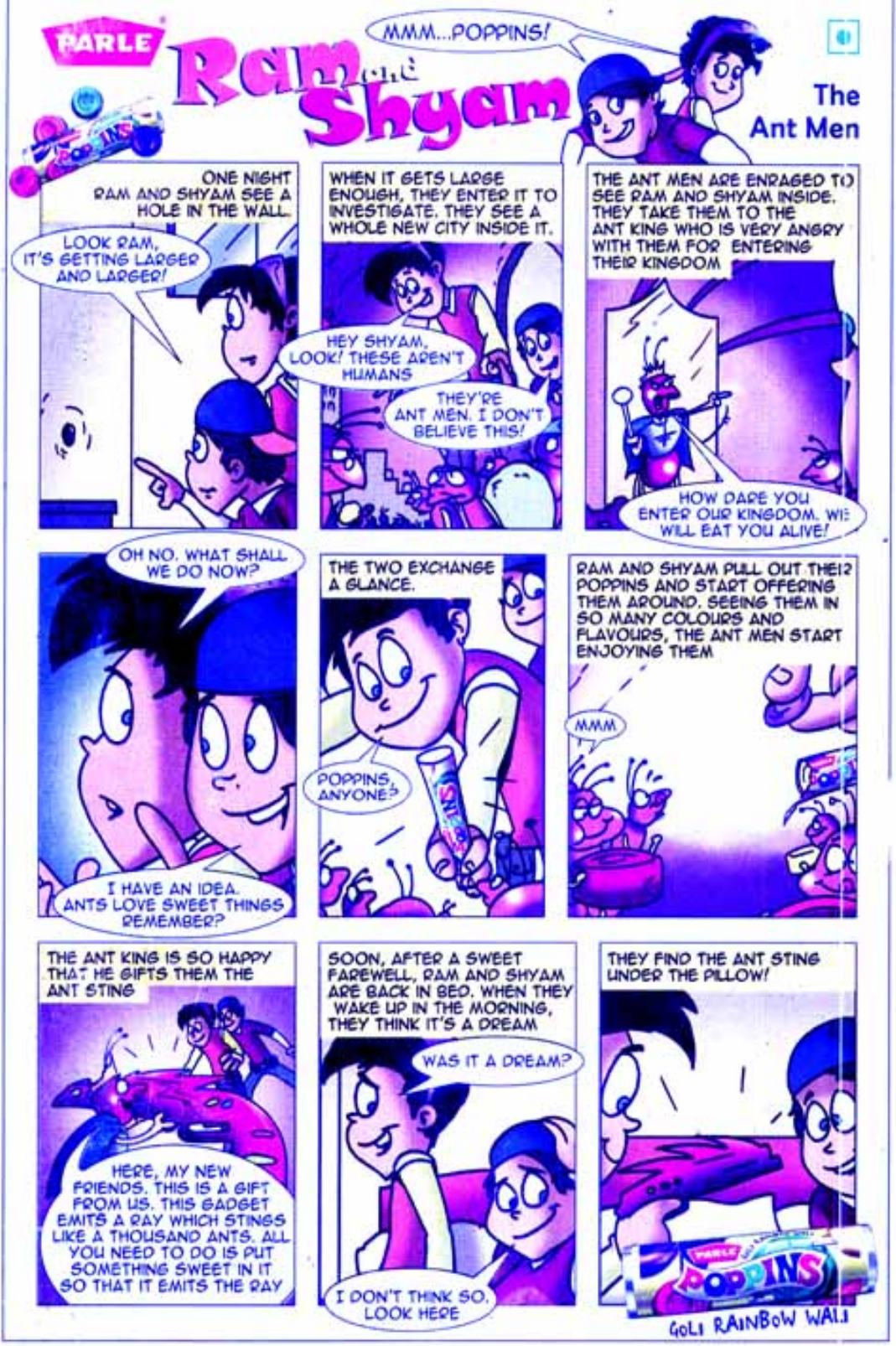
C.S.I.Jessier Moses Matriculation Hr. Sec. School,
Chennai

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